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Security Council

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New York

President:	Mr. Portas	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Crivano Machado
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2011/641)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2011/641)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Angola, Australia, Japan, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Timor-Leste to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the members of the Council, I wish to welcome the presence at this meeting of His Excellency Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, and Her Excellency Mrs. Vera Lúcia Barrouin Crivano Machado, Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/641, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

I now give the floor to Ms. Haq.

Ms. Haq: I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to introduce the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/641) on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), covering the period from 8 January to 20 September 2011. I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste, Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa.

The report describes a calm situation in which the overall trend is positive and the country continues to make progress towards sustainable peace and development. When UNMIT was established in 2006, Timor-Leste was marked by a fragile security situation, a weak institutional framework for the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL), and thousands of internally displaced persons in camps throughout the capital.

Today, Timor-Leste is a very different place. Much has been achieved. Political leaders across the board are unequivocal about the need for continued peace, dialogue and stability. The PNTL has resumed responsibility for police operations throughout the country, and UNMIT police has intensified its focus on providing support for further institutional development and capacity-building of the PNTL. Dili is a vibrant and safe city. With the Government's Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030, there is along-term vision for the further development of the country. The electoral management bodies have significantly strengthened their capacity since 2006 and are spearheading preparations for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2012. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain, including in the areas of institutional capacity-building, further strengthening of the security sector, and such socio-economic issues as youth unemployment.

President José Ramos-Horta, President of National Parliament Fernando "Lasama" de Araújo, Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, and Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente Secretary-General Mari Alkatiri deserve much credit for contributing to an environment in Timor-Leste of continued progress towards the consolidation of peace, development and stability. They and other political leaders from across the spectrum have consistently reiterated the importance of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and commitment to the democratic process. Since the report's closing date of 20 September, I have held two of my regular meetings with all political parties, and one meeting with women party representatives. During these meetings, I have been heartened to hear party representatives describe their own responsibilities towards ensuring that this constructive political climate persists.

As the Secretary-General's report notes, good progress continues to be made in all areas of UNMIT's mandate. Let me first focus on two key elements for continued peace and stability in Timor-Leste that are

also critical aspects of UNMIT's mandated support: policing and elections.

In the area of policing, the PNTL's resumption of responsibility for the conduct, command and control of all police operations in the country on 27 March was a milestone. As I mentioned earlier, since then UNMIT police support has focused on strengthening capacity-building and training of the PNTL within the framework of the PNTL-UNMIT Police Joint Development Plan. The Plan sets out a comprehensive programme of capacity-building activities in the key areas of administration, discipline, legislation, operations and training. UNMIT police have also been providing operational support to the PNTL as required and requested, and will maintain this capacity throughout the electoral period. UNMIT police are already supporting the PNTL in preparing for the 2012 elections, including through ongoing training in the areas of operational planning and incident command and control, as well as assistance in developing a joint operations plan for elections.

A key challenge for meeting our goals in the policing area is retaining UNMIT police officers and selecting others with the expertise needed for the effective implementation of the Joint Development Plan. Here, I appeal to police-contributing countries to provide officers qualified for specialized advisory positions, and reiterate the Secretary-General's request that the countries concerned approve extensions of deployment for police officers serving in key UNMIT positions.

Since the PNTL's resumption of policing responsibilities on 27 March, PNTL officers have effectively addressed incidents, and there has been no impact on the continuing low crime rate. In the long-term, the PNTL's enduring effectiveness will depend, to a large extent, on its ability to maintain the trust of the Timorese public. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, the Office of the Secretary of State for Security completed its review of the 199 officers with pending criminal or disciplinary issues, with criminal and/or disciplinary action recommended against 121 officers. The importance of the PNTL's continuing efforts to enhance internal disciplinary mechanisms — demonstrating its commitment to transparency and the rule of law — cannot be overstated. Another essential element of maintaining trust among the population is to serve its most vulnerable members, including the victims of domestic violence, which continues to be the second highest reported crime in Timor-Leste after assault. Continued efforts to engage in community policing can assist in tackling this issue, which UNMIT continues to promote in all our work with the PNTL.

As mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, the PNTL continues to face a challenge in meeting all of its logistical requirements. I urge the Government and Parliament, including in the context of the current 2012 budget discussions, to work together to ensure adequate financial allocations for the PNTL to overcome existing logistical gaps and to maintain any assets UNMIT might eventually transfer to it. Those gaps are also being discussed in the High-level Committee on Transition, on the basis of detailed analysis of requirements and costs.

The parliamentary and presidential elections in 2012 will undoubtedly be another major milestone for Timor-Leste. Although the electoral calendar has not yet been announced, preparations are proceeding. The Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration has drafted subsidiary electoral legislation, including the rules and procedures for candidate nomination, polling and counting and campaigning, as well as codes of conduct for media, observers and party representatives, all of which are currently under review by the National Electoral Commission. United Nations support to the elections, provided through the joint UNMIT and United Nations Development Programme electoral support team, is a key example of United Nations integration in action.

I would like to highlight that, while the representation of women in Parliament — 21 out of 65 members — is already commendable, Parliament's approval of the amended parliamentary election law providing for an increase in the quota of women on party lists of candidates to one in every three reflects the widespread commitment to women's participation. To enhance women's participation in the elections, both as voters and as candidates, a national steering committee has been established, comprised of members of Parliament, the Secretariat of State for the Promotion of Equality, the electoral management bodies, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and UNMIT. On 7 and 8 November, the steering committee hosted a national workshop, entitled "Women's leadership leads us to peace and stability", to discuss strategies to bolster women's participation in the elections.

Nevertheless, challenges remain. While women are currently playing important roles in a number of key Cabinet, State and other leadership positions, it is encouraging that multi-pronged efforts are being made by the Government and local authorities, civil society and the United Nations to increase the level of women's participation in political, electoral and other decision-making processes. During my discussions over the past months, I have appealed to all entities concerned, including State institutions and political parties in Timor-Leste, to promote women's full participation in important forums and decision-making processes that will influence the course of their country's future.

The elections are expected to be a major political event next year. I encourage international partners to again show their commitment to Timor-Leste by sending observers for the elections and by providing the financial support still needed for United Nations electoral activities to be conducted at the request of the Government.

Furthermore, the elections are widely expected to lead to a peaceful transition to a new Government in Timor-Leste, by the third quarter of 2012, with the space for meaningful engagement of an opposition. It is also expected that the PNTL will demonstrate its capacity to manage security throughout the electoral period. Based on those assumptions, and counting on continued stability, I am optimistic that conditions will allow for a smooth departure of UNMIT by 31 December 2012.

On 30 September, the Government submitted to Parliament its proposal for the 2012 State budget, in the amount of $1.76 billion, with the plenary debate beginning on 9 November and expected to conclude by 25 November. Parliament's discussions of that budget, in which all parties, including the opposition, actively participate, is yet another example of its role as a well-functioning forum for democratic debate.

As the Council knows, in July, Parliament approved the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan for the period 2011 to 2030, which sets out the Government's strategies and actions to transform Timor-Leste into an upper-middle income country by 2030. As the implementation of the Plan proceeds, it will be important for public investments to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, so that all segments of the population benefit from Timor-Leste's natural resources and growth. Creating increased employment opportunities for young people will be particularly important as an indispensable contribution to long-term stability and prosperity.

Encouragingly, Timor-Leste's leaders are tackling those issues, making good progress on several of the Millennium Development Goals and redoubling attention to the targets that are currently off-track. Furthermore, through its chairmanship of the group of seven plus fragile States (g7+), Timor-Leste is at the forefront of the global policy agenda on strategies for enhancing aid effectiveness to fragile and conflict-affected states.

Finally, there have been advances in strengthening the anti-corruption infrastructure. The Anti-Corruption Commission, which became fully staffed at the beginning of this year, has proceeded to undertake investigations. Parliament also approved a law establishing the Audit Chamber of the High Administrative Tax and Audit Court, whose staff are now being trained in Lisbon.

As mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, the Commander of the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL), Major General Taur Matan Ruak, resigned on 1 September. On 6 October, President José Ramos-Horta hosted a ceremony to mark the transfer of command to newly promoted Major General Lere Anan Timur, Major General Ruak's long-term deputy. That smooth transfer of command is a promising sign for F-FDTL's continued institutional stability.

Timor-Leste has also continued to demonstrate its commitment to human rights. On 12 October, Timor-Leste's national report, which highlights the progress made and challenges faced in efforts to promote and protect human rights in the country, was adopted at the twelfth session of the working group of the United Nations Human Rights Council, under the Universal Periodic Review.

On 20 September, UNMIT launched the first public report by a peacekeeping mission on the rights of persons with disabilities, entitled "Of Course We Can". At that event, for the first time, UNMIT provided persons with disabilities information in alternative formats, including a Braille version of the report and sign language.

UNMIT's transition is well under way. On 19 September, the President, the Prime Minister and I signed a joint transition plan to guide the transition process in seven focus areas. That was the first time that a peacekeeping mission jointly established such a mechanism with a host Government. It has been a personal privilege for me to work so closely with the Timorese leadership on this ongoing matter.

As part of the transition process, the Government is proceeding with efforts to ensure that sufficient resources are dedicated to strengthening its logistical capacity in areas currently supported by UNMIT, such as aviation services. In addition, UNMIT is increasing its capacity-building activities, for both its almost 900 national staff and for various national counterparts. In the context of the transition process, joint working groups in each of the focus areas have also identified areas of support currently provided by UNMIT that should be handed over to United Nations agencies, which in turn will need to raise the financial resources required to expand their responsibilities between now and the end of next year.

The planned and orderly conclusion of a peacekeeping mission is only one aspect of a successful transition. Equally important is establishing the nature of the United Nations engagement that will be needed thereafter by the country in question, in consultation with that Government based on its priorities and requirements. As the Secretary-General has indicated in his report (S/2011/641), consultations will continue on various options for a United Nations presence in Timor-Leste following UNMIT, noting that any option would need to be discussed with the Government that will be formed following the 2012 elections.

The coming year will be an eventful one for Timor-Leste. Just like the Timorese public, UNMIT looks forward to what in Dili is sometimes called the democracy-fest that is expected in 2012. Credible and peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections would further demonstrate to the world the progress made by Timor-Leste in advancing sustainable peace and development. The elections will also be a test of the capacity of Timorese security institutions, particularly the PNTL, to ensure public safety and security across the country.

As I mentioned earlier, Timor-Leste still faces a number of long-term challenges in order to achieve its development aspirations, including in terms of enhancing institutional capacities, further strengthening the security sector and increasing human resources. In areas such as access to justice, oversight and accountability mechanisms, youth employment and health, additional support will be particularly needed. Yet, as the Secretary-General's report reflects, there are also many reasons for optimism. First and foremost among them is the determination of the Timorese people, without which none of the progress described in the report would have been possible.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Foreign Minister Da Costa, as the representative of the Government of Timor-Leste, for our excellent collaboration. I would furthermore like to thank all political parties, including the opposition, as well as civil society, for their continued collaboration. My thanks also go to all staff of UNMIT and the United Nations country team for their contribution towards our mandated efforts to support Timor-Leste.

The President: I thank Ms. Haq for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Da Costa.

Mr. Da Costa (Timor-Leste) (*spoke in Portuguese; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): It is with great satisfaction that I return today to the Security Council to participate in this debate on Timor-Leste. The relationship of the Timorese with the United Nations dates back 36 years, to the General Assembly's adoption of its first resolution on my country, on 12 December 1975. Since then, that relationship has grown even closer and has come to include the Security Council, which has been decisive in safeguarding our sovereignty and independence. For those reasons, on behalf of the Timorese people and Government, of which I am a member, I would like first of all to thank the members of the Council profoundly and sincerely for their attention and generosity towards Timor-Leste and its people.

I would also like to mention the effort and dedication of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ms. Ameerah Haq, who is present here. Her commitment has greatly contributed to the evolution of the situation in Timor-Leste and to our country's excellent relationship with the United Nations.

On 22 February, His Excellency Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão gave a speech in the Chamber (see S/PV.6485) in which he described completely and transparently the path that Timor-Leste has travelled during our Government and since the United Nations Integration Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was authorized and established under circumstances that we all know. Political and social stability, along with economic development, are a reality in our country; they are the fruit of significant public investment that has been directed to that end. The path has been long, but we have overcome many obstacles. Nonetheless, we humbly acknowledge that other, even more difficult, obstacles still lie ahead of us. We are aware of them, but it is important to note that in 2012 Timor-Leste will celebrate just 10 years since the restoration of its independence.

We also believe that the country is on a far more stable foundation than it was five years ago. We know that things overall have gone very well, but we must also recognize that highly significant steps have been taken in virtually all areas. As evidence of that, the most recent United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report* ranks Timor-Leste on its Human Development Index just five places above the last medium-development country, and above many others that have been independent for decades and have not experienced conflict.

The strong economic growth that has been registered over the past several years — including with regard to retirement, disability and old-age pensions, as well as merit compensation for former combatants, and infrastructure rehabilitation projects undertaken at the level of districts and villages — has decisively contributed to a period of social peace unprecedented since the restoration of our independence.

There has also been concrete progress in reforming the defence and security sectors, thanks to both bilateral and multilateral support. UNMIT has been a useful and valuable partner in that effort, particularly since the PNTL assumed complete responsibility for executive control of internal security, which took effect on 28 March. Since then, the PNTL has invested heavily in the training of its forces, as well as in strengthening its logistics and infrastructure in order to ensure the quality of its operational activities. Next year, we expect the Prime Minister and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Timor-Leste to grant final certification to the PNTL, which will signal the completion of that phase, which will also be affirmed during the next presidential and legislative elections.

The Government's commitment to professional training, logistics and operations for the PNTL is clearly reflected in the national budget, which allocated $20 million to that end and was approved by Parliament last week. In addition to the budget, the PNTL has strong support in this area through UNMIT's training and development programme in the context of the joint development plan signed in February, and through bilateral cooperation with Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, Japan and the United States. In addition to the reinforcements foreseen in the budget, the PNTL is also committed to recruiting 250 new members, who will begin training in January for integration into the police force in the third quarter of 2012.

Finally, with respect to professional development to ensure the excellence and professionalism of the national police, the commission for monitoring the PNTL promotions process has also focused on the area of discipline. The new disciplinary regulations, which were approved recently in the Council of Ministers and are awaiting adoption, will help fill gaps in this area, with training seminars and workshops to be conducted with the support of United Nations police. We are firmly committed to advancing the proceedings in the 199 cases of PNTL officers mentioned in the Secretary-General's report. I would like to inform the Council that 195 of the cases are under investigation or awaiting sentencing. Two were resolved through dismissal and one through exoneration.

I am very pleased to be able to say that Timor-Leste has the largest percentage of women in its police service in the entire region; this is testimony to our commitment to promoting gender equality and opportunities to participate in the social, political and economic life of our young democracy. The new election law, enacted in June, mandates a quota of one woman in every three candidates. Through its Department for the Promotion of Equality and together with civil society organizations, in partnership with UN-Women, the Government is working to maximize women's participation in the 2012 elections. I would also like to mention that the contribution of women is broadly recognized at the national level — a Timorese woman, Filomena Barros dos Reis, was recently awarded an N-Peace Award for her contribution to

peace — particularly in the border regions, through cultural exchange and capacity-building in local communities as conflict mediators and agents of peace and economic development.

With regard to human rights, Timor-Leste recently participated in October in a constructive dialogue in the Human Rights Council on its first Universal Periodic Review. I assure the Council of our full commitment to implementing the recommendations we received. We have also taken significant steps to discipline the martial arts groups that have been active outside the sporting spirit of their activities. We have enacted legislation on such groups' activities and established a code of conduct. The Secretary of State for Youth and Sports is actively promoting all measures necessary to avoid future incidents among these groups. The isolated incidents of violence that occurred in some places, such as Zumalai, are the result of old issues among the populations of neighbouring villages, involving elements connected to the martial arts groups. Through the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Government has restored normality among the affected families and concluded an investigation that resulted in the imprisonment of all the implicated parties.

Concerning the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL), we continue to consolidate that military institution. Last month, Major General Taur Matan Ruak asked to retire and passed the baton to Major General Lere Anan Timor. That in itself demonstrates the maturity that the higher command of the F-FDTL has attained with a peaceful, voluntary transfer of command of our armed forces.

The defence cooperation agreements that have been signed with New Zealand and Indonesia and are to be signed with the United States and Australia are examples of Timor-Leste's commitment to working within a new framework of relationships after the exit of the international stabilization forces. On 17 January 2012, 12 members of the armed forces will participate in a United Nations peacekeeping mission for the first time as members of the Portuguese contingent of engineers in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and Timor-Leste begins its contribution to peacekeeping with great pride. I note that two PNTL officers are part of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and one member of F-FDTL is a military observer in the youngest country in the world, South Sudan.

Today, Timor-Leste is unquestionably better prepared to face its future than it was five years ago. Many State institutions have been strengthened and control mechanisms established to monitor State employees' activities, including the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Audit Chamber and continued improvement in the justice sector as pillars of a more just and reliable society. The progress that has been made in these areas is of necessity for the medium and long terms, and cannot be measured in months or even years, as is also the case with the civic education of a people who lived for 24 years under oppression and violence. The traumatic consequences of those practices at all levels do not disappear of themselves overnight. We recognize that, while some issues persist, we know that they do not have the same social impact.

In that context, it is important to note that the mechanisms created have been designed to grow progressively stronger and to contribute to better Government administration. Timor-Leste is the first Asian country and only the third in the world to meet the transparency criteria of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and has created an online portal enabling free real-time access to the State's budget accounts. Social justice for the people of Timor-Leste starts with the ambitious goals for sustained development established in the Strategic Development Plan approved by Parliament. The Plan defines development directions through 2030 that involve investing in human capital, infrastructure and the economy, and in transforming Timor-Leste's economy from one essentially tied to oil into one that is non-oil-based.

We believe that 2012 will be a special year in the life of Timor-Leste and the Timorese. We will hold presidential elections in the first quarter. On 20 May, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the restoration of independence, and parliamentary elections may be held at the end of June. We will also celebrate the centenary of the Manufahi revolt, which took place during the Portuguese occupation of Timor, and, finally, the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the first Portuguese on the island of Timor, which we will celebrate in the enclave of Oecussi. We want our elections to take place in a climate of peace, stability and celebration. We know how important they are as determinants of the consolidation of our young democracy.

There are positive signs that political leaders on all sides will be committed to acting with mutual respect in the promotion of peace and in defence of the democratic values of liberty and tolerance. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank UNMIT, the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral partners, including Portugal, Japan, South Korea, Brazil and Mexico, for their important contributions to the success of our elections.

This climate must continue to prevail as UNMIT draws down at the end of next year. I commend the joint work that has been done in the preparation of the transition plan for UNMIT. Learning from our errors in the past, which had a grave social, economic and political impact on the country's security and stability, we must also pay special attention to monitoring the evolution of the transition based on quarterly reports submitted to the High-level Committee. As Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão noted when he signed the Plan, it is a living document that can and must be adapted from moment to moment to ensure its efficacy and full completion.

At the regional level, Timor-Leste has made major strides towards regional integration. In April, we became an observer member of the Melanesian group. We also welcomed with great satisfaction the decision taken at the recent summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bali to consider the membership application of Timor-Leste under the criteria established in a letter from ASEAN. We welcome the commitment and the full support of Indonesia, among the various members of ASEAN, as well as the friendly nations of the region and the world, throughout the entire process of Timor-Leste's application to join that important regional organization.

We are sure that Timor-Leste will earn the confidence and trust of the countries of the region and join the great ASEAN family in a good time. We are also confident that stability and security will continue to prevail in Timor-Leste and that the coming elections will take place in an atmosphere of liberty and tranquillity and in accordance with international standards. Thus, after the elections in 2012, we will be able to begin a new phase with the gradual withdrawal of the United Nations Mission and the gradual process of integration into ASEAN.

In conclusion, I commend the members of the Security Council and thank them for their support.

The President: I now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mrs. Crivano Machado (Brazil) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*): I welcome you, Sir, in your capacity as President of the Security Council. I reiterate Brazil's support for the Portuguese presidency and our satisfaction with the holding of this debate on Timor-Leste. I would also like to welcome Minister Zacarias Albano da Costa and express my appreciation for his presence in the Council. I thank Special Representative Ameerah Haq for her briefing and congratulate her on her leadership of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and for her efforts in support of the country.

Timor-Leste has shown a remarkable capacity to overcome the difficulties it has faced in the last decades. Today's debate gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the country's success in the course it has chosen despite the many challenges along the way. The current situation in Timor-Leste shows that those who doubted the ability of the Timorese people to progress towards political stability, security and development were mistaken.

In the security sector, we welcome the transfer of police responsibilities to the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste. UNMIT's efforts in the transition and its capacity-building programmes have played an important role in consolidating national police force. The continuing calm and stability in the country are a clear sign of the success of this process. The fact that the goals to be reached by Timor-Leste are now of a socio-economic and institutional nature is a demonstration that the former challenges of conflict and instability have been overcome.

Moreover, new obstacles are already also being surpassed. Although there may still be need for progress, Timor-Leste has made its way steadily towards the necessary improvements. The country has had accelerated economic growth and laid the bases for investment and infrastructure development. Social indicators have improved significantly.

In the institutional sphere, the Timorese Government has made efforts to create mechanisms for the protection of human rights, programmes for the fight against corruption and for the promotion of transparency. These are signs of the consolidation of an

active political class and of a society that is conscious of what the country needs to move forward.

The increasing international integration of Timor-Leste — for example, its membership in the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, as well as through other initiatives, such as its drive to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which we hope will be successful — is a springboard that will benefit not only the Timorese, but the international community as a whole. The integration of Timorese military officers into Portuguese contingents in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon demonstrates that the country is beginning to make its own contribution to the efforts of the international community.

The greatest sign of Timor-Leste's maturity is the healthy political process that is in place in preparation for the elections next year. The constructive and peaceful political debate between the Government and the opposition is exemplary. The fact that the country's third elections, to be held in 2012, coincide with the tenth anniversary celebration of the restoration of independence, is of great symbolic significance.

Brazil praises the important contribution of UNMIT to the success of Timor-Leste. The Mission has played a fundamental role in supporting the country with the tasks necessary for its progress. Brazil believes that it is important for Timor-Leste to extend the positive results obtained with UNMIT's support to such areas as transition and capacity-building. The joint transition plan is a positive measure that will allow adequate planning for the post-UNMIT period and the continuity of international cooperation in the areas in which the Timorese Government identifies a need for assistance.

Brazil has supported Timor-Leste through a large number of bilateral and trilateral cooperation projects. We will continue to work together on programmes in a broad range of areas, including agriculture, education, justice and security.

The Timorese have reason to be proud. Their successful journey has not always been the rule in similar situations. The case of Timor-Leste stands out as an example in post-conflict situations. The Timorese people and Government have been able to mobilize their efforts, with the help of UNMIT, and rediscover the way to peace and development. The international community and the Security Council must continue to support them on this path.

The President: I thank Vice-Minister Crivano Machado for her statement.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like at the outset to thank Minister Portas for his presence here today and for presiding over our meeting. I should also like to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste, Mr. Da Costa, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Haq, for their comments.

China welcomes the fact that, during the period under review, the Government and the people of Timor-Leste, with the assistance of the international community, have made positive progress in the building of the country. We would also note that Timor-Leste, because of its fairly low point of departure in the process, still faces challenges in terms of improving living conditions and maintaining stability in the country.

I should like to focus my statement on three areas.

First, we hope that the leaders of the various Timorese parties will continue to resolve their differences through dialogue. China appreciates the efforts deployed by President Ramos-Horta and Special Representative Haq to promote dialogue between the parties, and we call on the various parties in Timor-Leste, in the interests of the people and of national unity, to endeavour to resolve any differences through communication and cooperation so as to enable the people to concentrate their efforts on building the country. We hope that the presidential and legislative elections to be held next year will provide a fresh opportunity to the people to consolidate their political stability.

Secondly, we believe that Timor-Leste should continue to strengthen its security and stability. The national police has already fully assumed its security functions. To date, the security situation has been very stable throughout the country. There have not been any serious incidents, and China welcomes this. We hope that Timor-Leste will continue to strengthen its autonomous security forces so as to ensure the security of its people. It is important to ensure that the presidential and legislative elections next year are conducted under positive conditions, in an atmosphere

of security. We hope that the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), in its remaining mandate, will train police officers as a priority in its work, in order to help them to strengthen their capacity.

Thirdly, in order to ensure lasting peace and security in Timor-Leste, the economy must be further developed and living conditions improved. China supports the efforts undertaken by the Government of Timor-Leste to develop the economy and create jobs while continuing to maintain social stability and concentrating their efforts on building infrastructure and developing human resources. China calls on the international community to continue to support Timor-Leste in its development efforts in order to ensure that it achieves sustainable development.

China very much appreciates the joint transition plan developed jointly by UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste, and we hope that the two parties will cooperate closely in the transition process. We hope that UNMIT will be able to withdraw as planned from Timor-Leste under favourable conditions so that the country can become a success story of the United Nations with regard to both the deployment of peacekeeping missions and exit strategies. China believes that, after the eventual withdrawal of UNMIT, the United Nations, in accordance with the wishes of the Government of Timor-Leste, should continue to provide it with assistance.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Mr. President, I wish to welcome you to the Council. I wish also to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste and the Vice-Minister of Brazil. I extend my thanks to Special Representative Haq for her briefing this morning and for her dedicated leadership and commitment to solidifying peace in Timor-Leste.

The collaboration among the United Nations, bilateral partners and multilateral actors has paid dividends in Timor-Leste. The continued cooperation among all stakeholders will provide critical support as this young country develops and prospers. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/641) provides us with an important opportunity to discuss the needs of Timor-Leste, to reflect on the progress of the planned withdrawal of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), and to begin long-term planning for future United Nations engagement in the country.

Allow me to address four issues today.

First, the United States is pleased and encouraged that the security situation in Timor-Leste continues to be stable and that security sector reform efforts continue to bear fruit. The transition of primary policing responsibilities last March from UNMIT to the Timorese national police was a critical step in developing the capacity of national institutions to promote enduring security in Timor-Leste. We appreciate UNMIT's essential support to the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) and recognize the PNTL's successes in strengthening its own capacity. We also acknowledge and commend the commitment of the Timorese defence forces to enhancing their professionalism and building their readiness, including their ability to respond to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

Work remains to be done, however. Continued efforts to professionalize the national police and the military are necessary. We encourage the Government of Timor-Leste to focus on establishing well-defined roles for the police and the military. This is especially important as Timor-Leste moves towards elections in 2012. The United States is committed to supporting the continuing development of the military and police forces through professional exchanges, training and exercises.

Secondly, as mentioned, Timor-Leste will hold presidential and parliamentary elections in the first half of 2012. The importance of organizing and holding free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections cannot be overstated. We urge all political parties to respect the outcome of the democratic process and to conduct political activities peacefully.

The United States is pleased to support the request made by the Government of Timor-Leste for election monitors and civic and voter education programmes. We urge the international community to provide additional support to the election process.

Thirdly, I would like to reiterate the importance of Government institutions and capacity-building in Timor-Leste. The strengthening of rule of law and governance institutions is critical to the future stability of Timor-Leste. We urge continued international support for that effort. The increased participation of

women in the national police and politics is laudable and should be replicated across all institutions. Praise is also due to the Government of Timor-Leste for its progress in promoting anti-corruption and transparency initiatives, including the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission, as well as other initiatives.

We urge further work on institutionalizing Government accountability, providing access to justice and resolving truth and reconciliation issues, including the establishment of a public memory institute. Strong institutions devoted to the protection of human rights, the promotion of national prosperity and the achievement of accountability across all levels of society are critical to long-term stability in Timor-Leste.

Finally, I would like to highlight the impressive level of collaboration between UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste in developing and ratifying the joint transition plan. The plan will guide the complete withdrawal of UNMIT by the end of 2012. We encourage UNMIT and the Government to continue with its implementation consistently and systematically.

As the 2012 elections approach, the intensity of electoral preparations will increase and it may prove difficult to maintain simultaneous preparations for the eventual withdrawal of UNMIT. We urge UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste to avoid delaying the implementation of the transition plan and to continue engaging international partners to ensure that capability gaps are quickly identified and filled.

With UNMIT's withdrawal a little over a year away, we have the opportunity to think collectively about the future engagement of the United Nations, including the Security Council, in Timor-Leste. The United States believes that international support for the development of Timor-Leste will continue to be critical to the country's future. We remain committed to a sustained dialogue with the Government and other stakeholders with regard to a post-UNMIT United Nations presence in the country. The good offices of the United Nations and other international support systems will be integral to the continued development of Timor-Leste and will provide opportunities for Timor-Leste to contribute to those institutions as well.

That mutually beneficial relationship is already starting to develop. Timor-Leste has progressed from a country that needed a peacekeeping force to a country that contributes to peacekeeping forces. Timor-Leste police officers have served in overseas missions, including in Kosovo in 2005 and this year in Guinea-Bissau. In July of this year, 12 Timorese defence force engineers began a six-month training to prepare for their eventual integration into a Portuguese contingent that will serve with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

We also commend the role Timor-Leste plays as an international leader of fragile States, through its founding and sharing of the group of seven plus (g7+) post-conflict countries.

In conclusion, allow me yet again to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haq for her leadership and dedication, the peacekeepers of UNMIT for their work and contributions, Timor-Leste's other supporters on the ground and abroad and the Timorese themselves, for their continued dedication to peace and security in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Alzate (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me, Mr. President, to warmly welcome you and to take this opportunity to underscore the long-standing interest your country takes in the maintenance of international peace and security in various parts of the world. Allow me also to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste and the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

My delegation would like to thank Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), for her detailed and truly comprehensive briefing, which helps us to understand the main events in that country since the renewal of the Mission's mandate in January. We highlight her ongoing leadership and commitment, which are apparent too in the UNMIT staff. Her continued efforts to promote peace, stability and development in Timor-Leste have our full support.

We are delighted by what we have heard today. When the Security Council meets and sees progress on the issues on its agenda, we feel that the United Nations system is getting stronger and that our work has been worthwhile. This is one of those instances. We welcome the progress in peacebuilding, stability and development that we have hoped for in Timor-Leste.

In that context, we appreciate the willingness expressed by political leaders to guarantee stability during the 2012 electoral process and to maintain national unity and focus their efforts on long-term socio-economic and development strategies. There is no doubt that conducting free, transparent and peaceful elections will be a milestone for Timor-Leste. We therefore express our full support of the electoral process. We stand ready to cooperate in any way that Timor-Leste thinks would be helpful.

The interest shown by the various sectors in the country in preserving space for ongoing and broader dialogue — the "Maubisse II" initiative stands out in that regard — is the proper path to take, for it allows for an exchange of views on lessons learned and best practices in maintaining security and stability during and after next year's elections. Respectful dialogue, an outgrowth of real peace, is the path to genuine reconciliation, harmony and well-being.

It is also encouraging to learn that the Timorese police force has now taken over full responsibility for police operations throughout the country, that the rate of reported crime continues to drop and that stability has been achieved. Although the 2012 election period will be a significant challenge for the logistical capacities of the Timorese national police force, particularly in remote areas, we are nevertheless confident that they will be able to respond to the challenges that may arise. The support provided by UNMIT in those areas will be critical.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our support for the transition process being enacted by UNMIT and the Government to enable the Mission to withdraw by the end of 2012. Strengthening national capacities will enable the leaders and people of Timor-Leste to continue to move towards the achievement of common goals aimed at fomenting an inclusive model of growth that is fair and sustainable in the long term.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): My delegation expresses its appreciation to you, Mr. President, Portugal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, for presiding over this debate. We also extend our appreciation to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq for her briefing on the situation in Timor-Leste, to Mr. Zacarias da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, to Mrs. Vera Crivano Machado, Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, and to the Core Group for Timor-Leste for their presence at this important debate.

My delegation wishes to commend the Government and people of Timor-Leste for their continued commitment to the consolidation of peace, unity, stability and development in their country.

South Africa associates itself with the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2011/641) that the conduct of credible and peaceful elections, for the second time since the 2006 crisis, will be a critical milestone for Timor-Leste. Those elections will see the participation of the largest numbers of young people, between the ages of 17 and 24, who will be first-time voters. The successful holding of the elections will be a positive sign in efforts to consolidate democracy in Timor-Leste. In that regard, South Africa calls upon the international community to assist Timor-Leste with its preparations for the election process.

South Africa commends the work that has been and that continues to be done by the United Nations country team and the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Timor-Leste. During the period under review, the Special Representative continued to deal with, among other things, issues related to governance, accountability and broader security sector issues.

In September we received a report from Deputy Prime Minister Guterres on progress attained in the implementation of the joint strategic plans. Special Representative Haq has alluded to progress in that area with regard to the various working groups and the continued high-level engagement with the President, the Prime Minister and senior Government officials.

My delegation also welcomes the effort of the Government of Timor-Leste to develop legislation to promote the advancement of gender equality. We also welcome its efforts to promote outstanding legislation, most notably the electoral laws, as well as the 2011 State budget and the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030.

South Africa applauds the transfer of command and control of policing operations to the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) and the PNTL's resumption of those operations as an important step for national law enforcement. We call upon the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to

continue supporting capacity-building and institutional development of the national police. That notwithstanding, the continuing skirmishes among martial arts and religious groups remain a source of concern. My delegation appeals to all parties to refrain from the use of violence and to instead seek peaceful means to resolve the situation.

In closing, South Africa would like to wish the Government and the people of Timor-Leste every success in the planning and preparations for the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for the first half of 2012. We are encouraged by the ongoing planning being carried out by the Government through the High-level Committee on Transition, in consultation with UNMIT, in considering how capacity-building activities can be taken forward in the post-UNMIT phase. South Africa encourages the careful calibration of drawdown after the 2012 elections, taking into account the material conditions on the ground.

We wish to express our satisfaction with the successes achieved by the United Nations in Timor-Leste. We encourage this Council to stay the remaining course and to support the country in the finalization of the transition.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her briefing and, more generally, for her work. I also thank Mr. Zacarias da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, for having made the trip to take part in our debate today.

France associates itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Since our last meeting, held in February (6487th meeting), and the adoption of resolution 1969 (2011), Timor-Leste has progressed on the way to stability and return to the exercise of its full sovereignty. We are impressed by the successful transfer, on 27 March, of executive power from the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). Another source of satisfaction is the continuing low crime rate.

The political maturity shown by the leaders, the successful holding of their debates and the establishment of electoral bodies have given hope that the presidential and legislative elections slated for 2012 will be conducted in a satisfactory manner and, equally important, that the losing candidates will accept the choices made at the polls. The presence of international observers will help to bolster that credibility, if necessary. The elections will be the opportunity for the country to show that it has definitely turned the page on the 2006 crisis.

On the economic front, the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/641) quite rightly highlights the importance of the Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030, which was recently approved by Parliament.

The Security Council, in its resolution 1969 (2011), set the course for a responsible drawdown of UNMIT personnel, in tandem with a reconfiguration of its functions towards support and training. That will enable it to maintain a credible presence during the elections and ensure its rapid departure thereafter, which would then create a space for a new kind of United Nations presence.

We commend UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste on the quality of their joint transition plan to lay the groundwork for the Mission's departure. The plan is a great help in identifying the areas of cooperation that we wish to see taken up in the future.

The number of deployed UNMIT police officers was reduced from 1,480 early in January to 1,195 by the end of September. It is important that there be enough officers during the election to serve as a deterrent and to intervene if requested to do so by the authorities. Therefore, while we must consider developments in the situation on the ground, we must also have a strategic view of the pace and location of the planned adjustments, in particular during the post-electoral period.

Finally, I have a few words about the United Nations presence following the withdrawal of UNMIT. The four models identified in the report of the Secretary-General show that many approaches are possible and that each has its own merits. What is important is to begin a dialogue with the Timorese authorities following the 2012 elections so as to determine which of the models to choose.

Mr. Amieyeofori (Nigeria): I am grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the Portuguese delegation for convening this timely meeting of the Security Council on Timor-Leste. I would also like to thank Mr. Da

Costa, the Timorese Minister for Foreign Affairs, for his pertinent contributions to today's discussion. I also thank Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for her lucid introduction of the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/641). We appreciate her efforts and dedicated service as Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

I will limit my remarks to three important issues, namely, the political and security situation in Timor-Leste, its economic and development agenda, and its judicial and correctional systems.

Nigeria welcomes the climate of calm and stability that continues to characterize the political and security landscape of Timor-Leste. The prevailing conditions manifest the commitment of the Timorese leadership and stakeholders to sustainable peace. Indeed, the Government's initiatives on the road to peace and national unity have helped not only to foster dialogue and reconciliation, but also to facilitate the focused implementation of the national development plan.

The presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for early 2012 will be a major milestone in the peace consolidation and democratic transition processes in Timor-Leste. Under the circumstances, the importance of peaceful and credible elections cannot be overemphasized. The continuing constructive interaction between the various political parties and major stakeholders, which has guaranteed the prevailing peace, should therefore guide the conduct of the elections.

With the transfer by the United Nations of command and control of all police operations to the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) on 27 March, Timor-Leste has entered a new critical phase that will determine the durability of the remarkable progress made in the security sector since 2006. The low crime rate is an indicator that the transfer is viable. Ahead of the eventual withdrawal of UNMIT, its police should continue to support the institutional strengthening, capacity-building and professionalization of the PNTL, as outlined in the PNTL-UNMIT Police Joint Development Plan, signed on 23 February.

The development of a competent and credible national military is also critical to the country's ongoing success. In that regard, we welcome the steps being taken to further strengthen the institutional and human-resource capacities of the Timor-Leste defence force, with the support of UNMIT and other United Nations and bilateral partners. A clear delineation of authority between the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste and the PNTL, under effective civilian control, would certainly help to prevent the incidence of friction between the two forces.

On socio-economic development, given the improved security, greater confidence in the country's leaders and the robust economic growth, Timor-Leste's social and economic revival is rapidly gaining traction. We laud the Government's effective and transparent use of increased budgetary resources and the promulgation of the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030. The Plan sets out an economic growth and poverty reduction strategy. In our view, if well implemented, the Plan will engender growth and accelerate the pace of development in the country. Still, there is an overarching need for the Government to sustain its investment in rural development and youth employment and to communicate its goals and programmes to the population more clearly.

On the judicial sector, Nigeria commends the Government's recent measures to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the justice and correctional sectors, including its adoption of the Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste. Such measures have undoubtedly enhanced access to justice, reduced the number of pending criminal prosecution cases and improved the prison infrastructure. To underpin the notable progress already made, the Government should emphasize combating impunity and strengthen accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, adequate steps should be taken to generate public confidence in the judicial system and to ensure respect for the independence of the judiciary.

In closing, I would like to thank the UNMIT peacekeepers, as well as the Timorese partners on the ground, for their continued dedication to peace and security in Timor-Leste. While the Timorese have made giant strides towards peace and stability, the presence and commitment of strong international partners will remain vital for sustained progress in the country.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and through you your delegation for organizing this meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Timor-Leste. We

note with appreciation that Foreign Minister Mr. Paulo Portas is here with us this morning. His presence and that of His Excellency Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa, Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste, add even more importance and standing to our debate this morning. I would also like to note with appreciation the presence of Vice-Minister Mrs. Vera Machado of Brazil. I also thank Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for her comprehensive briefing and for the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/641).

We are encouraged by Foreign Minister Da Costa's assessment of the situation in Timor-Leste. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the overall situation remains calm and stable and that the country is well on its path to long-term peace, stability and development. We appreciate the continued and active engagement of all political parties in the democratic processes. Such processes are essential to the consolidation of the democratic framework, as well as to the rapid socio-economic development of the country.

We are happy to note that the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) has successfully assumed responsibility for the conduct, command and control of all police operations in the country. As the transition progresses, it is necessary for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to remain steadfast in its commitment towards the institutional development and capacity-building of the PNTL. Moving ahead, it is critical that the necessary legislative and operational framework is in place for a clear delineation of authority between the military and the police, so that they can effectively discharge their responsibilities under the civilian Government.

The presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled next year will be a major milestone in the consolidation of the democratic transition of Timor-Leste. The United Nations must provide the necessary technical and logistical support for the smooth conduct of those elections, in accordance with the priorities established by the Government.

We appreciate and fully support the efforts of the Government to enhance regional engagement and to address the developmental challenges confronting the country. We note with satisfaction that economic growth continues to remain robust and that public expenditure, including the proceeds from the oil and gas sector, has continued to be a strong driver of economic growth in the country.

India attaches great importance to its relations with Timor-Leste. We have sought to contribute to the country's development by providing expertise and training in areas where our competence would be of use and where we see complementarities in their application. India has extended its support to the Government of Timor-Leste, including through assistance for the purchase of equipment and materials related to socio-economic development and the human-resource development sector.

As UNMIT moves towards a drawdown by the end of 2012 and the Government assumes full responsibility for various processes, the United Nations system and agencies present in the field must work in a coherent manner. The joint transition plan, which sets out possible models for United Nations engagement after UNMIT's withdrawal, needs to be finalized in accordance with the priorities of the Government. The progress made so far gives us hope and confidence that we are moving in the right direction. We appreciate the efforts of UNMIT, the international community and bilateral partners towards peace, stability and development in the country.

Before I conclude, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the leadership of Special Representative Ms. Ameerah Haq and for the dedication and hard work of her team in supporting the Government and people of Timor-Leste. I am confident that we are well on the path to make UNMIT a real success story.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): I, too, would like to thank Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for her briefing and for the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/641). I welcome the presence at this debate of Their Excellencies Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, and Mrs. Vera Lucia Machado, Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of Brazil, and thank them for their statements.

In my statement, I would like to focus on democratic governance, the ongoing dialogue and the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

With regard to democratic governance, my delegation welcomes the firm commitment of the Timorese President to promote democratic values and confidence among the political leaders. I also welcome the steps taken by the Timorese Government, with a view to the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2012, to support unity, mutual respect and women's participation. On that point in particular, we are pleased to highlight the increase in the number of women on the party lists of candidates.

Furthermore, we welcome the democratic functioning of Timorese institutions, in particular the open debate within Parliament, as well as the commitment of political leaders to unity and stability. The meetings organized by Ms. Haq between the Government and the party leaders for the organization of credible elections are proof of that. It is the wish of my delegation to see the presidential elections of 2012 take place in a calm climate, with respect for the rules and interplay of democracy.

With regard to lasting dialogue, my country supports the continuation of the Maubisse initiative, to which all the players in Timor-Leste, including heads of parties and civil society, adhered in August 2010. That initiative must be institutionalized, like the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship.

With respect to security, I am pleased with the calm prevailing in the country. We call for operational capacity-building in law enforcement in certain areas. We also hail the progress made in the judicial framework, particularly the first results of the legal proceedings in corruption cases. This helps strengthen confidence and the struggle against impunity and corruption.

I turn now to the mandate of UNMIT. My delegation is of the view that it has achieved significant objectives, such as reconciliation and national unity, social cohesion, security, the transfer of responsibilities for law enforcement to the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste, respect for human rights, and integration of women. Social and economic development is also moving forward, and we are most pleased with this development.

Regarding that domain in particular, we encourage the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan approved by all parties, as well as of good government practices so as to stay on track and attain sustainable and integrated development in the country.

Thanks to the assistance from the international community, the Timorese people can now take in hand most of the tasks that up to now have been carried out by UNMIT. Therefore it is important to consider the period after UNMIT. In that spirit we hail the adoption by the Government and UNMIT of a joint transition plan for the transfer of responsibilities to the Timorese people. Next, Timor-Leste must present an assistance plan that will enable the Security Council to transfer the mandate to an appropriate structure that can help in areas where Timor-Leste is still in need of support.

I conclude by reiterating Gabon's support for the actions of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. We also express our appreciation for the professionalism, dynamism and competence of Ms. Haq, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and to all her team. Their contribution is that of building a more stable, unified Timor-Leste, moving towards development prosperity. Such endeavours have become part of the history of this country.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): Thank you, Mr. President, for presiding over this debate. We thank as well the Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste for being with us here today and for his very helpful briefing, and Ms. Ameerah Haq for her briefing and for all the work that she and all her colleagues in the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) have been doing and continue to do to help Timor-Leste.

The year 2012 will be pivotal for Timor-Leste and its people, who will again be asked to elect a parliament and a president. As Timor-Leste works towards these important milestones, we are pleased to note the continued stability in the security situation, as well as the country's encouraging economic growth. It is especially pleasing to note that no discernable increase in crime or disorder has resulted from the handover of full policing responsibility to the Timorese national police.

I would like to focus on three topics today. First is the nature of the United Nations presence once UNMIT has departed. Second is the role that the United Nations will be expected to play in contributing to the stability of Timor-Leste post-UNMIT. Finally, there is the withdrawal of UNMIT personnel.

We welcome the progress made in post-UNMIT transition planning, as detailed in the recently released joint transition plan. We comment the cooperation of UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste in producing a detailed document of this nature. Continuing that cooperation, the United Nations, with the Government of Timor-Leste, also needs to present a clear vision of the role that the post-UNMIT United Nations presence will play in Timor-Leste. That vision should focus on identifying priority areas of work and setting benchmarks to measure success, avoiding the United Nations commitment becoming open-ended.

In this regard we would welcome a United Nations strategic assessment of the options contained in the joint transition plan, drawing on input from the Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme to help ensure the right model with the right focus.

As UNMIT prepares to depart next year, it is crucial that the Mission's withdrawal is conducted carefully and efficiently. A clearer timetable for the post-election withdrawal of UNMIT personnel needs to be articulated, along with robust contingency planning in the event of any breakdown in security or stability.

We hope the Government of Timor-Leste, for its part, and all Timorese political actors will continue to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric as they strive for credible and peaceful elections in 2012. We also expect the Government to continue to act to prevent to impunity and to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The Government will need to ensure adequate budgetary provision for domestic policing to enable the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste to further establish itself as the primary provider of security in Timor-Leste.

Next year will present a variety of challenges for Timor-Leste and for the United Nations personnel who continue to serve there. We are grateful for all that has been achieved to date and ask the United Nations to maintain its efforts and to move towards successful completion and winding up of UNMIT and the establishment of a follow-on United Nations presence. While we hope that peace and stability will prevail in coming years, we should also take this opportunity to reassure the Government of Timor-Leste that the withdrawal of UNMIT will not mean an end of the Security Council's interest in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Allow me to welcome you today, Mr. President. I also wish to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste, Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa, and the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, Mrs. Vera Lucia Barrouin Crivano Machado. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2011/641) and Special Representative Ms. Ameerah Haq for her briefing today.

Bosnia and Herzegovina commends the significant progress that has been made in many important areas in Timor-Leste during the reporting period. As a young nation, Timor-Leste unquestionably faces many challenges, and every achievement demonstrates the continued commitment of Timorese leaders, political parties, civil society and the Timorese people in their quest for long-term peace, stability and development.

We reaffirm our appreciation for the vital and continued commitment of the United Nations in Timor-Leste. The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) has continued its important work, with a view to assisting the people and the Timorese Government in achieving self-sufficiency.

We believe that the resumption by the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) of primary responsibilities for the conduct and command of all police operations represents a major step in ensuring sustainable security in Timor-Leste.

With regard to the presidential and parliamentary elections to be organized in 2012, we take positive note of the progress made by the national electoral management bodies, particularly in the area of enhancing participation of women and youth in the electoral process.

As democratic transition gathers momentum, the successful organization and conduct of credible and peaceful elections will be of paramount importance. We believe that free and fair elections, as an outcome of serious preparation, will confirm that the Timorese people are moving forward in establishing a new democratic political environment and culture. For that reason, the United Nations must continue to support the electoral process, including by providing technical and logistical support as requested by the Government.

Now that the Timorese Government has fully assumed its control over all policing operations, it is imperative to ensure that the PNTL has the ability to respond to potential security challenges in the electoral period and beyond. We commend UNMIT's readiness to provide operational support to the PNTL, if required and requested during this crucial period.

As conditions improve and political stability continues, it is quite rational to start planning the transition period and the Mission's eventual departure. We endorse the Secretary-General's emphasis on the need to optimize UNMIT's effort and to focus on priority needs and activities identified jointly with the Government.

Lasting peace and stability in Timor-Leste ultimately require the full trust of the Timorese people in their politicians and confidence in the ability of the State to uphold the rule of law. In this regard, we are pleased to learn that notable progress has been made towards meeting the objectives and benchmarks of the medium-term strategy in the area of the rule of law, justice and human rights.

In order to support overall political and social transition processes, there must be sustainable development in the country. In particular, additional efforts are needed to sustain the envisaged growth by promoting rural development, infrastructure development and the role of the private sector, which should provide more employment opportunities, in particular for the young.

In conclusion, Bosnia and Herzegovina is confident that Timorese stability and social and political harmony will grow stronger in the future. The implementation of the process requires the determined commitment and cooperation of the Timorese people, Government and political parties. Bosnia and Herzegovina will support their efforts as long as is required.

Mr. Zhukov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Mr. Da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, for his statement, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Haq, for her briefing on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

We welcome recent developments in Timor-Leste. The overall internal political trends are positive. With the assistance of the Mission, the national reconciliation process is moving forward, which is particularly important in the light of the impending 2012 presidential and parliamentary elections. The security situation is also stable. It was encouraging to see the smooth transfer in March of law enforcement responsibilities from the Mission in the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL).

Next year should be a milestone of State-building in Timor-Leste. We hope that the elections will take place calmly and that their outcome will demonstrate the lasting nature of the results achieved in that country. Next year will also be a kind of exit test for UNMIT, too. Strengthening peace in Timor-Leste and developing State institutions, including the PNTL, has called for significant efforts, the results of which have also been encouraging. We believe that the Mission should continue to guarantee stability, safeguard young institutions and, when necessary, provide operational assistance in the maintenance of law and order during the electoral process.

It is encouraging to note that the efforts of the international community in crisis resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding are producing results. The situation in Timor-Leste is a worthy example thereof. We believe, however, that any final decision on the withdrawal of UNMIT in late 2012 should be taken after the presidential and parliamentary elections have been held, taking into account the prevailing political and security situation. Arrangements of a subsequent United Nations presence in Timor-Leste must be subject to substantive discussion with the country's new Government.

Ms. Ziade (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like at the outset to express our deep appreciation to you, Sir, for presiding over today's meeting. I thank Ms. Ameerah Haq for her briefing and for her work as Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). I also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste and thank him for his briefing. I further welcome Mrs. Crivano Machado, Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

The positive developments in Timor-Leste in the areas of political stability, security and socio-economic development have arisen as a result of the genuine desire of all political parties within the Government and the opposition to restore stability and prosperity to

their country. UNMIT has undoubtedly proved to be a success story for the international community, having contributed alongside other United Nations agencies to the consolidation of stability, the exercise of democracy and the building of State institutions. In that regard, I wish to make the following four observations.

First, Lebanon reaffirms its full support for UNMIT as it strives to complete its work before its mandate ends in late 2012. We welcome the joint transition plan signed by the President of Timor-Leste and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, which will guarantee the Mission's smooth exit.

Secondly, building security institutions will be key to consolidating sustainable security and the rule of law. In that context, we commend the role of UNMIT police in training and supporting the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) to assume its security responsibilities throughout the country. We also stress the importance of building and consolidating judicial authority and institutions in order to ensure accountability and prevent impunity.

Thirdly, we believe that the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 2012 will be milestones in the democratic progress of the Government of Timor-Leste. We urge all political parties to contribute constructively to the preparations for the elections, and stress the importance that the PNTL be prepared to maintain security and stability during and after the electoral process.

Fourthly, we congratulate the authorities and people of Timor-Leste on the approval of the Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030, aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and at raising the country to the rank of middle-income State. We call on the younger generation of Timor-Leste, which represents the overwhelming majority of society, to participate actively in the process of rebuilding and developing its country. We welcome the effective and outstanding participation of women in the political life and State institution-building of Timor-Leste.

In conclusion, I thank the authorities of Timor-Leste for the participation of their citizens in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to friendly Portugal, which has provided training to those elements to undertake their tasks.

Mr. Berger (Germany) (*spoke in Portuguese; interpretation provided by the Portuguese delegation*): I would like to thank the Portuguese presidency for convening today's meeting.

(*spoke in English*)

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Foreign Minister Zacarias da Costa in the Council today. I thank him for coming the long way to New York to report on the developments in his country. My delegation also appreciates the presence of the Portuguese Foreign Minister and the Brazilian Vice-Minister. Let me also welcome Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq, whom I wish to thank for her briefing and whose leadership of the Mission I again commend. Germany thanks the entire United Nations team, both in Timor-Leste and at Headquarters, for their successful contribution to the Timorese future.

Before I offer some national remarks, let me underline that my Government aligns itself with the statement to be delivered later in the debate by the observer of the European Union.

Germany takes note with satisfaction of the fact that the overall situation in Timor-Leste remains calm and stable. We share the assessment of the Timorese Government and of the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/641) that certain volatility remains but that there is reason for confidence that the Timorese institutions, in particular in the security sector, will weather the upcoming electoral and post-electoral seasons. We are also confident that continued capacity-building, if maintained at the current speed, will enable the Timorese security forces to fully meet the security needs of the country as international support is reduced. Close coordination with regard to the modalities of the drawdown of the international stabilization force will also be essential.

My delegation is encouraged by the handover of complete primary policing responsibility to the Timorese police, so far without any negative impact on the overall level of crime. However, it remains of pivotal importance to continue to ensure the highest standards that the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste committed itself to in its Joint Development Plan with United Nations police, including through adequate budgetary provisions.

Germany is confident that the remaining time prior to the elections and before the end of the transition will be used to continue to close the remaining capacity gaps, including in the management of logistics. While the strengthening of the Timorese army is also ongoing, Germany learned with appreciation that first Timorese military contribution to United Nations peacekeeping in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon is being prepared.

Against the backdrop of those encouraging developments in the security sector, we welcome the overall joint transition plan between the Timorese Government and the United Nations, which represents a true innovation. It outlines a comprehensive scenario for the drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), as well as an understanding of the national budgetary consequences. However, as my delegation pointed out here in February (see S/PV.6485), the post-UNMIT phase is fast approaching — if the current positive trends can be sustained. We note that, for the United Nations, one crucial question remains unanswered, namely, what comes after the transition. While certain fundamental decisions can only be made by the next elected Government, Germany encourages maximum attention to be dedicated to concrete planning for the post-UNMIT phase. Obviously, the Timorese Government will lead the way in that regard.

It is clear the United Nations has a long-term commitment to Timor-Leste. The joint transition plan ranks the continued fight against impunity at all levels of society and the strengthening of public confidence in the justice system among the long-term challenges. In that context, we note some progress with regard to the so-called certification of police officers who face disciplinary and criminal charges. As identified by the joint transition plan, other areas with considerable further support needs include governance and sustainable economic development. The role of women in all that can hardly be overestimated.

In conclusion, Germany would like once more to thank UNMIT for its highly committed and professional work, as well as to assure the people and Government of Timor-Leste of Germany's continued friendship and solidarity.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

(*spoke in Portuguese; interpretation provided by the Portuguese delegation*)

I would like to begin by warmly welcoming His Excellency Mr. Zacarias da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste, as well as Her Excellency Mrs. Vera Lúcia Barrouin Crivano Machado, Vice-Minister of Brazil. I also wish to convey a special greeting to the non-members of the Security Council, including the delegation of Angola, whose representative will speak in its capacity as President of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and Ms. Ameerah Haq, Head of UNMIT and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Timor-Leste, for the excellent work on the ground. I also thank all the staff and contributors to the Mission.

It is a happy coincidence that this debate is taking place during the Portuguese presidency of the Security Council one year before 2012, when, among other things, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Timor-Leste's independence and the fifth centennial of the encounter between the Portuguese and Timorese with the arrival of Portuguese navigators to the island.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/641) that has been presented today most appropriately highlights the progress that Timor-Leste has made during the period under review. In that regard, I would like to focus on some of its most significant aspects that provide so much hope for the future of Timor-Leste, very clearly pointing to great progress and promise. Here in the Security Council, I should like to say that Timor-Leste is a success in the history of United Nations efforts. As an Organization, we should be very proud of that success.

With regard to the security situation, we congratulate the Timorese authorities for taking over responsibility for security throughout the entire country — which the national police has done effectively and without compromising stability. We also note the positive developments in officer training and in the area of discipline.

In this pre-electoral phase, we are pleased to note the country's political stability and the increasing dialogue, and even consensus, with the opposition and civil society. I would like to emphasize improvements in public administration, the establishment of the Audit Chamber and the increased capacity to absorb

international support, both financial and in terms of human resources training. Those developments reflect growing institutional capacity and consolidation in Timor-Leste.

The efforts that Timor-Leste has made in economic planning are also noteworthy, as seen in the adoption of the strategic infrastructure construction plan for the period until 2030 and the investments in the non-oil sector of the economy, which are essential to ensuring sustainable growth for the benefit of future generations.

I would like to welcome the adoption, in September, of the joint transition plan, which is a good example of the close cooperation that exists between the Timorese Government and UNMIT. The plan is an essential component in the future re-definition of the partnership between the Government of Timor-Leste and the United Nations.

We believe that the necessary conditions are now in place for the presidential and parliamentary elections to take place in 2012, which will include 150,000 new voters and take place in accordance with recognized international standards. That will be a great opportunity for Timor-Leste to demonstrate to the world just how solid and deep its democracy is.

Portugal will extend its commitment of Portuguese police personnel in positions that UNMIT considers to be key, and calls on the other contributing countries to respond in a similar vein to the Secretary-General's request.

Portugal has been and remains committed to the exceptional framework of bilateral cooperation with Timor-Leste, with particular focus on areas that the Government has identified as priorities. In the area of justice, we are working with Timorese institutions in human resource development, and providing technical assistance in the preparation of legislation and the development of a legal lexicon in the Tetum language.

Education is another key area. During the past 10 years, we have developed technical cooperation programmes in education by sending Portuguese teachers, training Timorese teachers and providing the educational materials required to teach in both Portuguese and Tetum, the country's two official languages.

In the areas of security and defence, we have contributed to the education, training and professionalization of the armed and security forces. In that regard, we note the new technical-military dimension of the cooperation between Portugal and Timor-East, represented by the signing of two protocols in September establishing the inclusion of Timorese military personnel in Portuguese contingents taking part in United Nations and European Union peacekeeping missions. Twelve members of the defence forces of Timor-Leste are currently undergoing training in Portugal in order to be included in the Portuguese engineering company that will leave for Lebanon at the end of the year to join the ranks of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon during the first half of 2012.

In our opinion, that initiative is a good demonstration of Timor-Leste's desire to become an active member of the international community and to not shirk its responsibilities for maintaining international peace and security, which are the primary goals of the United Nations.

Timor-Leste is also a valued and active member of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), which is represented here today by a four of its members. The CPLP and its member States have also repeatedly expressed their commitment to cooperating with and assisting Timor-Leste and to contributing to strengthening the stability and consolidation of their institutions. I endorse the statement to be made by the representative of Angola on behalf of the CPLP.

We are now approaching a new phase in Timor-Leste's development as an independent State with the support of UNMIT as it makes the transition to a new and different presence in the United Nations. It is up to Timor-Leste, in dialogue with the United Nations, to decide on the format and composition of the Organization's presence in Timor-Leste after UNMIT withdraws. Portugal has absolute confidence that the transition process will unfold as planned, guaranteeing the transfer of capacities and competencies to Timorese institutions, and that it will allow the country to consolidate the work that has been carried out by the current United Nations mission.

It is never superfluous to stress — and I wish to do so on this occasion — the extraordinary progress that Timor-Leste has made since achieving its hard-won independence. The determination of the Timorese people and their leaders to overcome the greatest

challenges is today reflected in the remarkable progress that the country has made, which has earned them the international community's full confidence in their future.

I reiterate that Timor-Leste is a success story — the success of its people, of its partners, of its friends and of the United Nations — and an example of how the international community can respond to the hopes of a people and give freedom to its destiny. We know and recognize, however, that Timor-Leste still has a long way to go before achieving its legitimate aspirations with respect to economic and social development standards. It is therefore important that the international community and the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, remain firmly committed to that country. In that regard, I would like to highlight the contribution of the European Union to Timor-Leste. We align ourselves with the statement that will be made shortly by its observer.

To conclude, we look forward with optimism and confidence to developments in Timor-Leste in the year ahead. It has been 10 years since independence, but after 10 years of a resistance and a suffering unique in the history of the freedom of peoples, Timor-Leste is today a viable State under construction and a society that has embarked on the search for development. Rarely has so much been achieved in so short a time. Portugal will remain bilaterally and multilaterally at the side of Timor-Leste.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I would like to join others in welcoming Foreign Minister Portas and Foreign Minister Da Costa, both very important presences with us today, as well as Special Representative Ameerah Haq, whose contribution, together with that of her team from the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), has remained instrumental. I would also like to thank Portugal for inviting non-Council members to participate. Australia and Portugal have actually developed a closer relationship through our joint cooperation in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste has experienced an extended and increasingly confident period of stability over the past three and a half years, allowing the Government to turn its attention to the vital tasks of strengthening State institutions, improving service delivery to its people, building infrastructure and boosting the economy. Into the future, growing Government budgets will provide scope for greater public investment in health, education and rural development. Agriculture requires particular attention, and so of course do the employment needs of youth.

Australia welcomed the Timorese Government's decision to take a longer view of its development, which culminated in the Strategic Development Plan released in July — an appropriately ambitious vision. Australia will support the Plan's objectives through targeted assistance programmes in health, education, infrastructure, rural development and other areas.

It is widely understood, of course, that next year's national elections will test the strength of Timor-Leste's institutions, in particular the country's political parties, security institutions and electoral authorities. We have confidence in Timor-Leste's ability to run fair and transparent effective elections. We know that the Timorese people hold their democratic institutions to high account. We are impressed by the commitment of political leaders to peaceful elections and to the education of voters about their rights and responsibilities with respect to strengthening Timor-Leste's young democracy. The Maubisse dialogues, which bring Timor-Leste's political leadership, including opposition members, together, continue to reinforce to leaders of all parties that continued peace is in everybody's interests.

The election period will test the capacity of security services, in particular the police. We have to say that we have been concerned by the sporadic outbreaks of violence perpetrated by martial arts gangs. However, having said that, we are very encouraged that the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) was able to contain recent incidents, such as the violence in Zumalai in August. I note very carefully Foreign Minister Da Costa's reassuring comments on all that earlier this morning. The resumption of full policing responsibility by the PNTL in March coincided with a concentrated period of mentoring and consolidation, including focused capacity-building ahead of the election period.

My own country has provided some of the specialist trainers within the United Nations police and will continue to support the development of the PNTL

through a separate capacity-building programme. Looking ahead, adequate levels of Government budgetary support for the PNTL, as well as continuing a sustained programme of capacity-building, will be needed to ensure that it develops into a professional, resilient police force that is responsive to the community it serves. The international security forces also stands ready to provide support to Timor-Leste's security institutions and to United Nations police during the elections, if that should in fact be necessary.

As many have already said today, the performance of Timor-Leste's democratic institutions during next year's elections will indicate critical benchmarks for determining the timing of UNMIT's transition. For that and other reasons, it is important that UNMIT's mandate be extended until at least the end of 2012 to support the consolidation of a new Government.

Australia is optimistic about the conduct of next year's elections and the future development of Timor-Leste. We encourage the conditions-based approach, clearly outlined in the joint transition plan, as an ongoing guide for the approach of the Council. We acknowledge the work that the Government of Timor-Leste and UNMIT have put into the joint transition plan, and look forward to continued dialogue with the Government of Timor-Leste and United Nations agencies on its implementation. It will, of course, as people have said, be an evolving plan, but its innovativeness and deliberation is commendable. While the joint transition plan should prompt some preliminary discussions on a post-UNMIT United Nations presence, we agree that the nature of that presence should be guided by the views of the next Government in Timor-Leste itself. We have taken careful note of the views of political leaders that the United Nations should have an ongoing role in strengthening the foundations of Timor-Leste's democracy.

To conclude, 2012 will be a historic, landmark year for Timor-Leste. Beyond the national elections and the expected withdrawal of UNMIT, Timor-Leste will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its independence. Important challenges of course remain; we all know that. But the people of Timor-Leste have much to look forward to and are moving very much in the right direction. My own country will continue to work with Timor-Leste's Government, other partners and the United Nations to assist in this crucial transition phase and beyond.

Lastly, I would also like to commend Brazil for its work over the past two years as chair of the core group on Timor-Leste, and to welcome Vice-Minister Crivano Machado's presence today. We are very grateful to Brazil for its leadership during this period.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): I would like to begin by warmly congratulating His Excellency Mr. Paulo Portas, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, on presiding over the Security Council today. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Zacarias Albano da Costa, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, and to thank him for his statement. I am grateful to Ms. Ameerah Haq for her briefing to the Council in her capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and for the presence here of Her Excellency Mrs. Vera Crivano Machado, Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

Japan shares the expectation of the international community that the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) will complete its work by the end of 2012, marking a significant historical milestone after a decade of assistance from the United Nations. As all parties concerned will agree, the highest measure of success in this undertaking will be the self-sustainability of Timor-Leste and — with due consideration given to the elements of peacebuilding — the peaceful completion of United Nations peacekeeping operations in Timor-Leste.

To achieve that end, it is essential that the two elections planned for next year be conducted smoothly and peacefully. Japan has already launched its assistance for the elections by providing a grant of approximately $1.66 million through the United Nations Development Programme, possibly to be followed by the dispatch of election observers to the country. Japan appeals to the international community to accelerate its support for a promising young country at a historic juncture.

Japan highly commends Timor-Leste's successful assumption of all responsibility for policing, and appreciates that a stable, calm situation has been

maintained ever since. The outstanding efforts being made by the Timorese national police in this regard are indispensable. At the same time, I would like to highlight the supreme importance of security during the elections. Japan calls for further improvement of the capabilities of Timor-Leste's police and armed forces, as well as for enhanced efforts by the Government and continued support from UNMIT in this area.

Democratic elections are not simply a matter of maintaining security and conducting votes. They are a process by which a people entrusts its sovereignty to its representatives. From that point of view, the fundamental role played by trust among members of society cannot be overemphasized. In order to foster a sense of trust within a society, Japan believes that its elections must be perceived as fair and transparent, that all representatives selected in those elections must be considered trustworthy, and that they are understood to be respecting the results of a democratic process. In that regard, while commending the efforts of the Government and UNMIT to ensure the technical and procedural credibility of the elections, Japan calls for the political leaders of Timor-Leste to hold democratic dialogue and to banish corruption from every sector of the country. Japan encourages the expediting of this process so that Timor-Leste can continue to develop with the precious asset of mutual trust among the members of its society.

As for the post-UNMIT discussion, Japan welcomes the joint transition plan agreed between the Government and UNMIT following extensive efforts on the part of both parties. At the same time, we are pleased to note that the plan provides for a certain degree of flexibility, allowing for modification of its details to reflect the situation on the ground. As the Secretary-General wisely points out in his report (S/2011/641), we will have to wait to see how the post-election situation on the ground develops, particularly in terms of security, before finally settling the plan.

We hope that the best decisions for the country will be arrived at through dialogue between the Government and the United Nations. While the transition process is owned by the people of Timor-Leste, Japan stands ready to deliver any form of support that the country may decide to seek from the international community. I would like to conclude by reiterating Japan's continuing commitment to consolidating the friendship between our countries and cooperating with the Timorese people in support of their nation-building efforts.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Angola.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola) (*spoke in Portuguese*): I am addressing the Council on behalf of the members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP): Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste and my own country, Angola, which is the current President of the Community.

At the outset, I would like to welcome the participation in this meeting of His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, Mr. Da Costa, and of Her Excellency the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, Mrs. Vera Crivano Machado. We are pleased to participate in this important meeting of the Security Council, which includes Brazil and Portugal as non-permanent members, dedicated to considering the situation in Timor-Leste. We also take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2011/641) on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

It is with great pleasure that I take the floor today, in particular because we are discussing the situation in the most recent member of our Community, Timor-Leste. The situation in Timor-Leste is one scenario in which cooperation within the CPLP has proved to be important to all members of the Community concerned. We sincerely hope that the result of our joint efforts will benefit the country.

With the support of Member States, Timor-Leste and the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP have worked to establish permanent representation of the CPLP in Dili. We welcome the commitment of the Timorese authorities to this process, as demonstrated by the recent allocation of space for a representative and the funds necessary for the construction of the mission. We hope that these developments will allow for the early implementation of the CPLP strategic plan in the country, especially with respect to the promotion and dissemination of the Portuguese language as a vehicle of communication in every day work and business and towards institutional capacity-building in the areas of justice and public administration.

It is with particular satisfaction that I recall the importance of the eighth summit of CPLP Heads of State and Government, held in Luanda in 23 July 2010, where it was decided to reshape the future mandate of the CPLP permanent representation in Dili to feature a strong cultural component in favour of the use of Portuguese in Timor-Leste, in addition to the political component set forth in its original mandate. Timor-Leste's commitment to forging a strong relationship with the CPLP has also been demonstrated in its performance as the current President of the CPLP Parliamentary Assembly, and in the good results achieved at its third session, held in Dili in late September.

The States members of the CPLP remain committed to continuing the excellent cooperation with Timor-Leste with a view to strengthening its stability, consolidating its institutions and growing its economy. This process has already contributed to the growing affirmation of the country at the regional level, with benefits that support the CPLP's deepening involvement in South-East Asia and the Pacific. Coming possibly as early as 2014, the presidency of the CPLP will be another interesting challenge for Timor-Leste when it takes the helm of our Community for the first time.

In this context, the recent acceptance by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations of Timor-Leste's application for membership in that regional organization, together with the appointment of a working group to consider the accession process, is a further demonstration Timor-Leste's progress in recent years.

I also welcome Timor-Leste's first steps as a country that contributes to peace and security in the world by the integration of Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste soldiers (F-FDTL) into the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, and the dispatch of a military observer in South Sudan.

In addition, it is clear that by its example Timor-Leste has contributed to the creation of a more peaceful and secure world. I refer to the lessons learned and shared by Timor-Leste in the peaceful demobilization of veterans of the liberation struggle, in the recruitment of new soldiers, and in the new legislative framework for the integration of the F-FDTL in the professionalization of the country's defence forces, which should make all those who serve the people and democracy of Timor-Leste proud.

Timor-Leste has consistently improved its position in the human development index, as shown by the latest United Nations Development Programme report. In addition, the recently adopted National Strategic Development Plan will certainly further boost the country's strong economic growth despite the international crisis, help to modernize the country and combat poverty.

The year 2012 will be of great importance for the consolidation of Timorese democracy. The Community I represent today has complete trust in the maturity of the people and leaders of Timor-Leste as the country takes its next political steps. We are certain that the coming presidential and legislative elections will take place in an atmosphere of peace and security, reflecting the positive developments in the country in recent years.

The CPLP maintains its solidarity with Timor-Leste and has confidence in the people of that country to maintain the peace and stability, which are necessary to the economic and social development that will help Timor-Leste to contribute to increased stability and security in the region.

The President: I give the floor to the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vrailas: I thank you, Mr. President, for giving the floor to the European Union (EU). We are honoured to participate in this important meeting of the Security Council under your leadership, Sir.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

As several speakers before me have stressed, the general elections in 2012 will constitute an important milestone for Timor-Leste, providing further evidence that the country is firmly set on its path to a consolidated democracy.

Let me start by congratulating Foreign Minister Zacarias Albano da Costa with the progress described in the excellent report of the Secretary-General before us (S/2011/641). We commend his Government's leadership and strong political commitment to fostering peace, unity and development.

I also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq for the quality and insightfulness of her briefing. The European Union commends her team's efforts in ensuring good donor coordination and in keeping development partners briefed and consulted on the joint transition plan.

The preparations of the 2012 elections are progressing in a positive manner. The constructive and responsible way in which political leaders and civil society have been interacting under the so-called Maubisse initiative is particularly encouraging and indicative of the broad commitment within Timor-Leste society to democracy and dialogue.

Beyond its ongoing assistance in the preparations of the elections, the European Union is currently examining an invitation by the Government of Timor-Leste to send an election observation mission. I can assure the Council that we are considering this request with a friendly eye. EU election observation missions can be of tremendous value, as the missions in 2002 and 2007 have shown.

The maintenance of public security and the progress made towards strengthening the security institutions, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General, are welcome developments. The successful handover of primary policing responsibilities to Timor-Leste's national police without a negative impact on the crime situation is particularly noteworthy. While commending this progress, we would like to stress that the security forces need to live up to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. In this regard, we recognize the continued importance of a comprehensive review and reform of the entire security sector.

While recognizing the existence of potential security challenges, we are confident that the election process will be free and fair and held in a peaceful context. We welcome the continued willingness of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to provide operational support to the national police during this period, if required and requested by the Timorese authorities.

Throughout 2011, considerable progress has been made in the transition process. The joint transition plan, which places capacity-building at its core, is very welcome in this regard. The strengthening of institutional and human capacities is of great importance to a successful transition process. These activities are therefore also at the heart of the EU assistance programme.

Continued discussion of the architecture of the future United Nations presence, an important element of a sustainable transition, will be necessary. In this regard, the Timorese authorities should be decisive in the definition of the modality of a United Nations presence in the country after UNMIT.

Timor-Leste's constructive participation in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review deserves special mention. The efforts of both the Government and non-governmental organizations are to be praised.

Timor-Leste has also made further progress towards improving accountability for past human rights violations. We firmly believe, however, that reconciliation remains an important precondition for long-term stability. The National Parliament is strongly encouraged to resume discussions on the two draft laws on a memorial institute and reparations at the earliest possible date, as well as on other steps to implement the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation.

Timor-Leste has seen accelerated progress in many aspects of its economic and social development. At the same time, the country still faces challenges in the process of fully realizing its potential for equitable and sustainable development. In that regard, we welcome the national strategic development plan 2011-2030, as presented by the Government of Timor-Leste in July 2011. The plan represents a very valuable framework that provides guidance for coordinating and channelling our support, thus further improving aid effectiveness. We are highly committed to supporting the implementation of this plan in a spirit of partnership, mutual trust and accountability, including the increased use of reliable country systems.

The recently announced creation of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) working group for Timorese membership in ASEAN is a significant step towards developing Timor-Leste's

closer economic, political and people-to-people ties with South-East Asia.

Allow me to end by reiterating that we have stood firmly by Timor-Leste's side in the past and will continue to do so in future. We look forward to the 2012 deliverables: successful elections and further progress in the transition process.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Cabactulan (Philippines): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to Portugal and the other members of the Security Council for this opportunity to address this high-level meeting on Timor-Leste. Indeed, Mr. President, the fact that your Minister for Foreign Affairs is attending today's meeting attests to the importance of this issue.

Before I continue, allow me to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2011/641). I also wish to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, Zacarias Albano da Costa, for sharing with us the latest developments in his country. Lastly, I would also like to express our delegation's appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), Ameerah Haq, for her exhaustive briefing.

Since our last debate on UNMIT, in February (see S/PV.6485), we have seen improvements in the political and security situation in Timor-Leste. Since the Timor-Leste national police took control of policing responsibilities in March this year, the security environment has remained calm and stable. As a consequence, the vastly improved peace and order situation has allowed UNMIT to downsize the number of its police officers. The country, however, is still vulnerable to politically motivated violence as the 2012 presidential and parliamentary elections draw near.

The Philippines commends the great strides made by Timor-Leste in preparing itself for a post-UNMIT scenario. The joint transition plan drawn up by the Timorese Government and UNMIT is one of the most detailed and comprehensive plans ever produced for the smooth withdrawal of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, although the outcome of next year's elections will be crucial in determining whether or not that road map will be followed. But the fact that the seven focus areas have already been identified and analysed will greatly facilitate the work of UNMIT in the coming months.

The Philippine contingent to the United Nations police within UNMIT now stands, from a high of 139, at 86 police officers, 21 of whom are women, and three military advisers. The three military personnel are assisting mainly in humanitarian activities and in the investigation of incidents and violations. Five of the police officers hold key positions, while 29 serve as advisers. They have been doing an outstanding job in carrying out the mandate of the United Nations police force within UNMIT, and we are proud of their accomplishments in the security sector, particularly in the areas of community policing, training and capacity-building. In fact, although they are expected to return home in April next year, UNMIT has requested the Philippine Government to extend the tour of duty of those 34 Filipino police officers until the end of December 2012, so as to ensure the fulfilment of UNMIT's mandate.

The report of the Secretary-General underscores the recent economic growth achieved by Timor-Leste, which is largely due to the Timorese Government's excellent management of the oil industry and investment in public infrastructure. The long-term challenge is, of course, how to convert the country's oil wealth into human and physical capital in order to build a strong economy and improve the quality of life of the Timorese people. Indeed, socio-economic development will remain a priority for a young nation such as Timor-Leste even as the country consolidates the gains made in the area of political stability with a view to further deepening democracy and the rule of law.

The presidential and parliamentary elections next year will be a crucial test for the people of Timor-Leste. They will also take place after the expiration of UNMIT's present mandate. The Philippines believes that the UNMIT drawdown must be gradual and based on an objective assessment of current and anticipated requirements, especially in the light of the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. We do not want, of course, a repetition of what happened in 2007, when a premature United Nations disengagement triggered chaos and violence.

In view of the inevitable withdrawal of UNMIT, however, all stakeholders and partners concerned must work closely together to make the transition to a

post-UNMIT Timor-Leste as seamless and smooth as possible. At the same time, it provides a window of opportunity to the Government and the people of Timor-Leste to show their readiness and capacity to assume responsibility for their own peace and security.

As an active member of the Core Group for Timor-Leste and a close bilateral partner, the Philippines fully supports Timor-Leste at this crucial moment in its young history as an independent nation. As Timor-Leste marks its tenth anniversary, it is still experiencing hardship and difficulties, like many States emerging from conflict. But the Philippines is confident that Timor-Leste is in a good position to face the many challenges ahead.

At this point, Mr. President, let me once again assure you and all of our partners in the United Nations, especially the Core Group for Timor-Leste, that the Philippines will do its part to contribute to the success of UNMIT and to continue assisting the people and the Government of Timor-Leste.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS) represented at the United Nations: Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Papua New Guinea.

I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for presiding over today's meeting on this important issue. I also acknowledge the welcome presence in the Council today of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste, Mr. Albano da Costa, and to thank him for his briefing. The Minister's words underline his strong commitment to consolidating a peaceful transition in his country. In the same vein I would like to acknowledge the presence with us today of the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

Let me also commend the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Ameerah Haq, in leading the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). We take special note of the report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste for the period from 8 January 2011 to 20 September 2011 (S/2011/641).

We, the Pacific SIDS, are pleased to note from the Secretary-General's report that since 7 January 2011 "The overall situation in Timor-Leste remained generally calm, with continued progress towards the consolidation of peace, stability and development." (*ibid., para. 2*) We further note that both individual actors, such as the party leaders of the Congresso Nacional da Reconstrução de Timor-Leste and the Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente, and institutional bodies such as the Parliament, in preparation for the 2012 presidential and parliamentary elections, have all underscored the need to sustain national unity and to concentrate on longer-term socio-economic and development strategies.

We note in particular the various initiatives and events led by His Excellency President José Ramos-Horta to support his call for "solidarity to build a society living in peace, stability, and harmony, in which women and men may have a confident outlook and hopeful future." (*see S/2011/641, para. 6*) Those initiatives reveal the President's strong political will towards national unity and stability.

We are also pleased to note that one of the most important issues under discussion at this time is the participation of women in the political process. We therefore note the important meeting convened on 14 July 2011 under the aegis of the Secretariat of State for the Promotion of Equality.

The role of UNMIT continues to be crucial in the transition, ensuring dialogue and reconciliation among the diverse political actors and civil society. Continued institutional capacity-building remains essential for Timor-Leste, especially in the context of the coming presidential and parliamentary elections in March and June 2012. The elections will represent a cornerstone for the people of Timor-Leste and will constitute a unique opportunity for the nation to secure democracy and confirm its will to develop a respectful and peaceful society.

In order for the elections to be a success, with a sustainable outcome, domestic public security remains crucial. The resumption of the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) in March 2011 proved to be an important step relating to public safety. The Pacific small island developing States appreciate the work of the UNMIT police in providing operational support to the PNTL in issues such as close protection, joint patrols and border policing. We further embrace the

reported progress in the implementation of the joint development plan, which sets out the priority areas for UNMIT police capacity-building support.

Several Pacific SIDS members have contributed actively to the progress of UNMIT by past and current deployment of police personnel. In the past, a considerable Pacific contingent served in the country, coming from Palau, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu. At present, Samoa contributes with five policemen and policewomen and Fiji with one expert on mission. The Pacific small island developing States express their continued dedication and commitment to their active involvement in Timor-Leste.

We note with appreciation the progress of the Government of Timor-Leste in developing legislation to reinforce the security sector, for example in civil protection and border management. The Government has made notable progress towards meeting the objectives and benchmarks of the medium-term strategy in the area of the rule of law, justice and human rights. We are therefore glad to observe that Timor-Leste is showing solid progress on security and judiciary reforms.

Currently, Timor-Leste is experiencing a steady rate of economic development. We welcome the Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030, which reveals the Government's commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. UNMIT is making invaluable efforts in supporting that main national development policy by assisting the Government in planning, monitoring and coordinating donor assistance.

The Pacific small island developing States stand with Timor-Leste, which is also, we are very proud to say, a valued observer member of both the Pacific Islands Forum and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. Not only do we all share the same vulnerabilities and challenges, but we also share common values and opportunities. The Government of Timor-Leste is putting remarkable efforts into ensuring a stable, peaceful and democratic transition. Still, the quest for prosperity is a long-term journey with significant challenges ahead. The Pacific SIDS are committed to working closely with the Government of Timor-Leste in achieving its mission and reiterate their full support.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): New Zealand welcomes the presence today of Foreign Ministers Portas and Da Costa and Vice-Minister Machado, and also Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq, not only for her sterling work in Timor-Leste itself but also for her report here today.

That report highlights the fact that the past nine months in Timor-Leste have seen a continuation of the positive trends of recent years. The country remains largely calm and stable. Continued strong growth has enabled progress in addressing extreme poverty and extending social services. And we have seen further signs of broad commitment to a political culture based on dialogue and respect for constitutional norms.

There has also been real progress in preparing for a Timor-Leste without United Nations peacekeepers. Resumption of full policing responsibilities by the Timor police, the formal launch of the Government's Strategic Development Plan and agreement on a jointly owned transition plan have all laid foundations for a smooth transition.

New Zealand supports a conditions-based approach to UNMIT's withdrawal. Current trends suggest that we are on track for a smooth drawdown following next year's presidential and parliamentary elections and for a transition to a post-UNMIT United Nations presence by the end of 2012. Events over that year will of course determine whether that can be achieved. The coming elections will unquestionably be the sternest test since 2006 of progress in building the capacity of core State institutions.

Recent developments, however, do give us cause for optimism. Growing electoral management capability means that much less international support will be required for next year's elections. New Zealand welcomes the positive response from the United Nations to Timor-Leste's requests for targeted electoral assistance. We are also committed to providing support bilaterally. Impressive habits of restraint and respect for electoral rules and institutions have emerged, and we will soon learn whether they can withstand the intensity of high-stakes electoral competition. Timorese-led political dialogue processes, such as the retreat convened in July by the Bishop of Bacau, are playing an important role in consolidating those gains.

Assuming continuation of those positive trends, we must now focus on preparing for a smooth transition, by intensifying work to strengthen core

Timorese institutions and by concluding Mission activities or transferring them to other actors. The joint transition plan provides a comprehensive framework in that regard. We must work through that plan with key stakeholders, particularly the Timorese Government, the United Nations country team and donors, to ensure its effective and sustainable implementation. That is why we agree that the plan should remain a living document, to be adjusted as required.

Developing an integrated, "one United Nations" country strategy must also be a priority. Further strengthening the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste, particularly its logistical and operational capabilities, will also be important ahead of the expected United Nations police (UNPOL) drawdown after the 2012 elections. The PNTL-UNMIT Police Joint Development Plan is a useful blueprint in that context. We have been pleased at UNPOL efforts to recruit and retain suitable personnel for the highly specialized tasks of training and capacity-building.

Donors are also playing an increasingly important role. For example, at the Government's request, New Zealand is already scaling up assistance to the PNTL. Our police recently completed a pre-posting evaluation and preparatory visit for a bilateral programme focused on strengthening community policing, which will commence in January 2012, initially in four districts. We will continue our long-standing security partnership with Timor-Leste through a bilateral assistance programme with the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

Over the coming year, we must also intensify efforts to strengthen the capacities of other core State institutions, including public sector oversight and accountability bodies and the justice sector. That may also be Timor-Leste's final chance to draw on UNMIT support in addressing other long-standing challenges, such as strengthening civilian oversight of security institutions, investigating allegations of serious crimes and agreeing on support for their victims.

It is particularly important for the long-term health and legitimacy of Timor-Leste's security institutions that allegations of serious crimes against PNTL and F-FDTL officers be credibly addressed. We therefore welcome the establishment of a joint UNPOL-PNTL investigative team to process the remaining allegations against PNTL personnel.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2011/641) usefully outlines possible options for a post-UNMIT United Nations presence in Timor-Leste, and provides a good basis for further consideration of their respective implications and merits. Any decision in that regard must, of course, be based on careful assessments of Timor-Leste's post-UNMIT needs, and be determined in accordance with the priorities of the Timorese Government itself. Realistically, that means that the decision is still some way off and will be made, at the earliest, only after a Government emerges from next year's election processes.

The year 2012 should also mark a real shift in the focus of international assistance, with stronger emphasis being placed on Timor-Leste's long-term development challenges, including improving health and education and generating employment for its swelling youth population. That requires sustained growth in the non-oil private sector and particularly in agriculture.

The Government's twenty-year Strategic Development Plan, launched in July, sets out a comprehensive framework for providing international assistance in accordance with national priorities. New Zealand is seeking Timorese endorsement of a strategic framework to guide our bilateral aid programme over the next five years, and Timorese agreement on a shared vision for long-term development outcomes. The draft outcome framework contemplates assistance in three priority areas: strengthening the security and justice sectors, facilitating private-sector investment and providing education and training.

The year 2012 will be a watershed year for Timor-Leste, and a critical test of its emergence from post-conflict fragility. Should events proceed as we hope, by this time next year we may be marking UNMIT's valedictory. Credit is due to the Mission and its leadership for the progress made since the 2006 crisis. Above all, however, the people and the Government of Timor-Leste deserve praise for their courage and determination in charting their own future, and for their willingness and ability to define, for themselves, the assistance that they need. That is peacebuilding as it should be: national ownership in action.

Timor-Leste will still require the ongoing support of its friends in the region and beyond in addressing the many political and economic challenges that it will

continue to face even after UNMIT's withdrawal. For its part, New Zealand remains a proud friend and committed partner of Timor-Leste as it writes for itself the next chapter in its history.

The President: There are no further names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6665

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6665th meeting

Tuesday, 22 November 2011, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Ms. Guo Xiaomei
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Karanouh
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. McKell
	United States of America	Mr. Simonoff

Agenda

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (S/2011/452, S/2011/453 and S/2011/454)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-60402 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (S/2011/452, S/2011/453 and S/2011/454)

The President: The Security Council will now proceed with the election of the one remaining member of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with Article 13 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, to fill the remaining seat that will become vacant on 5 February 2012.

Document S/2011/453 indicates, inter alia, the national groups by which each of the two remaining candidates was nominated.

On 10 November the Council conducted a total of five ballots. Today the Council will conduct a sixth ballot.

The Security Council has before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, contained in document S/2011/452, describing the present composition of the Court and setting out the procedure to be followed in the conduct of the election. I should like to remind the Council that under Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

> "Those candidates who obtain an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council shall be considered as elected."

The required majority in the Security Council is eight votes.

The voting will be held by secret ballot. When we proceed to the vote, members of the Council will receive a ballot containing the names of the two remaining candidates. No withdrawal will be accepted once the ballot papers have been distributed. However, it will be possible to withdraw between ballots.

Members of the Council will be requested to place an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. Only the two candidates whose names appear on the ballot are eligible for election.

I should like to remind members of paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's memorandum contained in document S/2011/452, which specifies that

> "Each elector may vote for not more than five candidates on the first ballot".

Given that the Council will now vote to elect the one remaining member of the International Court of Justice, any ballot papers containing votes for more than one name will be considered invalid.

I should like to inform Council members that in accordance with established practice, the ballot papers in the Security Council will not be counted until it has been verified that the ballot papers in the General Assembly have also been collected. The Council will remain in session pending the receipt of that information.

When one candidate has obtained the required majority of votes in the Security Council, I shall communicate the result to the President of the General Assembly, and I shall request the Council to remain in session, pending the receipt from the President of the General Assembly of the result of the voting in the Assembly.

As Council members will recall, at the 6651st meeting of the Council, the delegations of Gabon and Nigeria were selected to serve as tellers.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Onanga (Gabon) and Mrs. Aguwa (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

The President: May I take it that the Council is now ready to proceed with the election of the one remaining member of the International Court of Justice?

It is so decided.

I request the conference officer to distribute the ballot papers.

* * *

The President: Members of the Council should place an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.

* * *

The President: I take it that all the members of the Council have now voted and I ask the conference officer to collect the ballot papers.

* * *

The President: All the ballot papers have been collected. I should like to remind Council members that in accordance with the established practice, the ballots will not be counted until it has been verified that the ballot papers in the General Assembly have also been collected. The Council will remain in session pending the receipt of that information.

* * *

The President: I have now been informed that the ballot papers have been collected in the General Assembly. The counting of the ballots in the Security Council will now begin. The tellers will now count the ballots. As agreed in our consultations, there will be two independent countings of the ballots, one by each teller. I should like to remind Council members that, in accordance with established practice, I shall wait for the General Assembly to complete its count before I announce the results of the voting in the Security Council. The Council will remain in session.

* * *

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	15
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	15
Number of abstentions:	0
Required majority:	8
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Abdul G. Koroma	9
Ms. Julia Sebutinde	6

I should like to inform the members Council that I have received from the President of the General Assembly the following letter:

> "I have the honour to inform you that, at the 64th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held today for the purpose of electing five members of the International Court of Justice, the following candidate obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly: Ms. Julia Sebutinde."

Accordingly, no candidate has received the required absolute majority of votes in the Council and in the General Assembly. As fewer than five candidates have received the required absolute majority of votes in both the Council and the General Assembly, the Council shall proceed to a seventh ballot for the remaining vacancy, in accordance with Article 11 of the Statute of the Court. I shall therefore adjourn this meeting of the Security Council and immediately call to order the next meeting of the Council to elect one candidate by a seventh ballot.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6666

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6666th meeting

Tuesday, 22 November 2011, 4.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Vukašinović
	Brazil	Mr. Fernandes
	China	Ms. Guo Xiaomei
	Colombia	Mr. Quintana
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	India	Mr. Choudhary
	Lebanon	Mr. Karanouh
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	South Africa	Mr. Crowley
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. McKell
	United States of America	Mr. Simonoff

Agenda

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (S/2011/452, S/2011/453 and S/2011/454)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-60498 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 4.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (S/2011/452, S/2011/453 and S/2011/454)

The President: May I take it that the Council is now ready to proceed to a seventh ballot?

It is so decided.

The Council will now proceed to a seventh ballot. I request the Conference Officer to distribute the ballot papers.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Onanga (Gabon) and Mrs. Aguwa (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

The President: Members of the Council should place an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. I would like to remind members of the Council that only those candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible for election and that ballots containing votes for more than one candidate will be considered invalid.

* * *

The President: I take it that all the members of the Council have now voted and I ask the Conference Officer to collect the ballot papers.

* * *

The President: All the ballot papers have been collected. I should like to remind Council members that in accordance with the established practice, the ballots will not be counted until it has been verified that the ballot papers in the General Assembly have also been collected. The Council will remain in session pending the receipt of that information.

* * *

The President: I have now been informed that the ballot papers have been collected in the General Assembly. The counting of the ballots in the Security Council will now begin. The tellers will now count the ballots. As agreed in our consultations, there will be two independent countings of the ballots, one by each teller. I should like to remind Council members that, in accordance with established practice, I shall wait for the General Assembly to complete its count before I announce the results of the voting in the Security Council. The Council will remain in session.

* * *

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	15
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	15
Number of abstentions:	0
Required majority:	8
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Abdul G. Koroma	8
Ms. Julia Sebutinde	7

I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have received from the President of the General Assembly the following letter:

> "I have the honour to inform you that, at the 65th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held today for the purpose of electing five members of the International Court of Justice, the following candidate obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly: Ms. Julia Sebutinde."

Accordingly, no candidate has received the required absolute majority of votes in the Council and in the General Assembly. As fewer than five candidates have received the required absolute majority of votes in both the Council and the General Assembly, the Council shall proceed to an eighth ballot for the remaining vacancy, in accordance with Article 11 of the Statute of the Court. I shall adjourn this meeting, and call to order the second meeting to elect a candidate by further ballot.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6667

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6667th meeting

Tuesday. 22 November 2011, 5.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Vukašinović
	Brazil	Mr. Fernandes
	China	Ms. Guo Xiaomei
	Colombia	Mr. Quintana
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	India	Mr. Vinay Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Karanouh
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	South Africa	Mr. Crowley
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. McKell
	United States of America	Mr. Simonoff

Agenda

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (S/2011/452, S/2011/453 and S/2011/454)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-60542 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 4.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice (S/2011/452, S/2011/453 and S/2011/454)

The President: May I take it that the Council is ready to proceed to an eighth ballot? I request the Conference Officer to distribute the ballot papers.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Onanga (Gabon) and Mrs. Aguwa (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

The President: Members of the Council should place an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. I would like to remind members of the Council that only those candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible for election and that ballots containing votes for more than one candidate will be considered invalid.

* * *

The President: I take it that all the members of the Council have now voted and I ask the Conference Officer to collect the ballot papers.

* * *

The President: All the ballot papers have been collected. I should like to remind Council members that in accordance with the established practice, the ballots will not be counted until it has been verified that the ballot papers in the General Assembly have also been collected. The Council will remain in session pending the receipt of that information.

* * *

The President: I have now been informed that the ballot papers have been collected in the General Assembly. The counting of the ballots in the Security Council will now begin. The tellers will now count the ballots. As agreed in our consultations, there will be two independent countings of the ballots, one by each teller. I should like to remind Council members that, in accordance with established practice, I shall wait for the General Assembly to complete its count before I announce the results of the voting in the Security Council. The Council will remain in session.

* * *

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	15
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	15
Number of abstentions:	0
Required majority:	8
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Abdul G. Koroma	8
Ms. Julia Sebutinde	7

I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have received from the President of the General Assembly the following letter:

> "I have the honour to inform you that, at the 66th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held today for the purpose of electing five members of the International Court of Justice, the following candidate obtained an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly: Ms. Julia Sebutinde."

Accordingly, no candidate has received the required absolute majority of votes in the Council and in the General Assembly. As fewer than five candidates have received the required absolute majority of votes in both the Council and the General Assembly, the Council shall proceed to a ninth ballot for the remaining vacancy, in accordance with Article 11 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. However, I have been informed by the President of the General Assembly that, due to the lateness of the hour, the Assembly will adjourn its meeting and the ninth ballot will be scheduled for a date to be announced later. May I suggest that the Security Council follow the same procedure?

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6668

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6668th meeting

Wednesday, 23 November 2011, 9.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Portas	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Alkalaj
	Brazil	Mrs. Crivano Machado
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Ms. Londoño
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Mashabane
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

New challenges to international peace and security and conflict prevention

Letter dated 8 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/698)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-60560 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

New challenges to international peace and security and conflict prevention

Letter dated 8 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/698)

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and Ms. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Geneva.

I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil and the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Colombia. Their participation in this meeting is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter to be addressed.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/698, which contains a letter dated 8 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I thank the Portuguese presidency for focusing the Security Council's attention on three of the defining challenges of our times: transnational organized crime, pandemics and climate change. I also thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal for taking the time to preside over this very important meeting.

None of these challenges is new. What is new, however, is that they are increasingly transnational, increasingly acute and have ever greater implications for human, State, regional and international security. They are increasingly transnational because of the growing ease with which people, goods and money can cross borders.

The recent movie *Contagion* was more science than fiction. Organized crime groups are particularly adept at exploiting the openness of globalization to traffic humans, drugs and weapons. Climate change is the quintessential global challenge. These threats are also increasingly acute because the combined stresses of crime, pandemics and climate change are pushing many poor and fragile countries close to the breaking point.

Some have seen their life expectancy cut in half by HIV/AIDS — a horrible toll not only on families and loved ones, but also on the labour force, businesses, the civil service and the armed forces.

Organized crime groups use corruption and violence to hollow out weak institutions from the inside. In addition, the extreme weather and other consequences associated with climate change are exacerbating already difficult struggles with desertification, drought, floods and volatility in food prices.

By undermining State capacity and State institutions, these threats have clear and increasing implications for peace and security. As the World Bank pointed out earlier this year in its *World Development Report*, countries affected by violence are home to 43 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Criminal groups, in their efforts to control trafficking routes, spread fear and insecurity, and, in some cases, have triggered the outbreak of political violence. Today, many more people die as the result of criminal and gang violence than in civil wars. We are seeing an increasing convergence between organized crime and terrorist groups. Climate change, in some regions, has aggravated conflict over scarce land and could well trigger large-scale migration in the decades ahead. In addition, rising sea levels put at risk the very survival of all small island States. These and other implications for peace and security also have implications for the United Nations itself.

First, no country and no region, no matter how powerful, will be able to address these threats alone. They can be addressed only through regional and global cooperation. The United Nations will continue to play a lead role in fostering such cooperation.

Secondly, these are complex and multilayered threats that require multidisciplinary responses. The United Nations is well placed to promote an integrated mix of political, development and capacity-building responses. All present here have heard me talk about connecting the dots among energy, food, health, disaster risk reduction and other issues in our response to climate change. That idea is relevant to today's discussion as well. We are all aware of the risk that a warming world will facilitate the spread of deadly diseases.

But there are other links as well. In some parts of the world, drug trafficking has led to an increase in intravenous drug use. This, in turn, has become one of the main drivers in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Our response to crime, meanwhile, cannot be limited to law enforcement. It must encompass public health, institution-building and human rights. Our economic and social development efforts must become more crime-sensitive. More broadly, it is crucial to address the social inequalities and economic injustice that give rise to frustration and unrest. Ultimately, security must be rooted in opportunity, freedom and hope.

I am pleased that at this meeting, the Council will hear from my colleagues António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Ms. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNODC have constructive ties with the Security Council. At the same time, there is ample room to increase contact with WHO, and I hope the Council will pursue this.

I thank the Council again for addressing such issues. As the nature of the threats that we face continues to evolve, the Council, so central to our ability to keep the peace, must also keep pace.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Yury Fedotov.

Mr. Fedotov: I welcome this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the multifaceted nature of the transnational organized crime and trafficking in drugs that are undermining security in many regions and evolving into major threats to political and social stability, the rule of law, human rights and economic development. In recognition of that global challenge, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is raising awareness and mobilizing multilateral action to deliver as one.

Earlier this year, the Secretary-General invited UNODC to co-chair the United Nations system-wide task force on organized crime and drug trafficking. The heads of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, Mr. Guterres and Ms. Chan, are strong and active partners in those collective efforts.

We work closely with them, as well as with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, INTERPOL, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the World Bank, among many others, to create a multidisciplinary response in areas such as piracy, drugs, the illegal trade in small arms, corruption, illicit money flows, human trafficking and crime involving wildlife.

We also build partnerships with the private sector and civil society. Our comprehensive and concerted approach is underpinned by UNODC's guardianship of the United Nations conventions on corruption, drug control and transnational organized crime.

UNODC's strength lies in its ability to deliver operational results in the field. We have developed a series of regional programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Those programmes support an integrated approach, linking the local to the regional and the global.

Regarding the Middle East and North Africa region in particular, UNODC's most urgent priority is to assist post-Arab Spring countries in their progress towards democracy and the rule of law. To that end, based on our existing capacities in that region and building upon new ones, we are refocusing our

Regional Programme for the Arab States to adequately address the new realities.

UNODC is already working closely with the authorities in Egypt and Tunisia and is developing a national programme with Libya. There is much to be done in that region in terms of strengthening the rule of law, criminal justice, police reform, combating corruption, assisting in the recovery of misappropriated funds, fighting against human trafficking and illicit migration, and terrorism prevention.

Combating piracy off the coast of Somalia by providing assistance to countries in the region to prosecute and jail convicted pirates remains our foremost priority. At the same time, the illicit money flows produced by piracy must be dealt with in a more meaningful way. We need also to address the growing threat of an upsurge in pirate attacks in West Africa, in particular off the coast of Benin. The United Nations inter-agency assessment mission, co-led by DPA and UNODC, that the Secretary-General recently dispatched to Benin and Nigeria will certainly help to develop a tailored, comprehensive and effective anti-piracy strategy for the region.

The impact of transnational cocaine trafficking has had a devastating effect on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe, in particular, the volume of cocaine consumed has doubled over the past decade. Our Latin American/Caribbean programmes are dealing with the issue, but we are also working hard to assist in the promotion of a collective response among the West African countries. UNODC has drawn attention to West Africa's vulnerability as a transit route for cocaine on a number of occasions. There is a need for the international community to focus on that pressing issue. UNODC's Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014 was developed to support the ability of the regional action plan of the Economic Community of West African States to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa.

Afghanistan, and its surrounding countries, is another key region where UNODC works to combat the transnational threat of drugs. The latest news is hardly encouraging. After the drastic decline in 2010 over the previous high production levels, due, mostly, to the opium plant disease, poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has increased by 7 per cent this year. In the same period, the amount of opium produced increased by 61 per cent, from 3,600 metric tons to 5,800 metric tons. There are now only 17 provinces that have a poppy-free status, compared to 20 in 2010. As a result, production levels may be heading in the direction of the previous high levels seen before 2010.

In Afghanistan, the farm-gate value of opium production alone is equivalent to around 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. Opium therefore makes up a significant part of the Afghan economy, and provides funding to terrorism and insurgency, while fuelling corruption. That situation cannot last forever. The time has come for a more results-oriented response to the challenge that is based on concrete action and shared responsibility.

I hope that the fifth Triangular Initiative Ministerial Meeting, which is scheduled for 28 November in Kabul, will help to agree new measures among the region's States and to ensure that the Afghan Government accepts counter-narcotics as a national priority. UNODC will launch a regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries on 7 December. That is an initiative in which we all have a shared stake. I hope that I will be able to report on the first results of our efforts to the third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact, to be held in Vienna on 16 February 2012.

While continuing our efforts to reduce the supply of drugs, we must also focus on demand reduction and the prevention of drug addiction. UNODC recognizes that drug use and drug dependence are health issues, which include HIV and AIDS, and must be addressed in full compliance with the conventions on drug control that form our profound commitment to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. Young people are particularly vulnerable. UNODC's global programme concerning children exposed to drugs addresses the issue of drugs in early childhood. Starting in Afghanistan, the programme will soon be extended to West Africa and Latin America.

We must appreciate, as well, that transnational organized crime and drug trafficking are also development issues, requiring a sustained approach and the long-term commitment of all partners. At the core of our multilateral response must be a policy to help build the capacities of fragile or weak States, while assisting with the defences of neighbouring countries and the long-term development of criminal justice systems.

To conclude, I would like to commend the Portuguese presidency for its initiative in organizing this meeting of the Security Council, and all Council members for their support of UNODC. My Office stands ready to further brief the Council on all issues relevant to its important responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President: I thank Mr. Fedotov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. António Guterres.

Mr. Guterres: Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation for this opportunity to address the Security Council.

The past 12 months have witnessed many momentous, often disturbing and sometimes inspiring, events. On the one hand, many of those events have confronted the Security Council with enormous challenges in its efforts to maintain international peace and security. On the other hand, they have required my own Office to respond to a succession of emergencies, providing protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, often in the most hazardous operational environments. It is in that context of mutual endeavour that I would like to turn to the theme of the presentation that I was asked to give today, which is that of human displacement and climate change.

We live in a world that is on the move. Information, ideas, capital, culture and people are all crossing borders at a much greater speed than at any previous time in history. Furthermore, with respect to the movement of human beings, patterns of migration, mobility and displacement are changing. Increasingly, the traditional distinction between migrants, who cross borders in search of a better life, and refugees, who are forced to flee persecution and conflict, has become blurred. More and more people are forced to flee while remaining within the borders of their own country, or do so for reasons that are not covered by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. As they lose their livelihoods and coping mechanisms to environmental degradation, they often find themselves with no option but to move on. In many parts of the world, refugees, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and the victims of human smugglers and traffickers are following the same routes, are making use of the same means of transport and are confronted with the same risks and dangers, especially when travelling by sea.

The patterns of movement are changing, but meanwhile, the scale of human displacement is also growing. Looking at the statistics of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in themselves — and they refer only to refugees from conflict and those internally displaced by conflict — last year we witnessed a count of 43.7 million people, a record high that is, as I said, only part of the picture of displacement. It is not difficult to understand why so many people abandon their usual place of residence and flee in search of safety elsewhere: persecution, violence, authoritarian rule, failures of governance, economic collapse and natural disasters. One only has to look at the tragic case of Somalia to see how all of those different factors can coexist and combine, with the appalling outcome that more than a quarter of that country's citizens have now been uprooted.

In that context, a principal reality of the contemporary world is the accelerating pace of climate change, as well as the international community's failure to address that issue in an effective manner. Climate change is the defining challenge of our times, one that interacts with and reinforces the other global mega-trends, such as population growth; urbanization; growing food, water and energy insecurity; and the risk of pandemics. It is a challenge that is adding to the scale and complexity of human displacement, and one that has important implications for the maintenance of international peace and security. Let me elaborate on that statement.

Recent years have seen the publication of many books and articles that speculate on the number of people who will be forced to move in the next two or three decades as a result of climate change. Twenty million? Fifty million? One hundred million? There seems to be no consensus on the matter. That is, perhaps, because the wrong question is being asked. Climate change is not an independent variable, a phenomenon that can be examined in isolation from the many other economic, social, political and ecological processes that determine the level of human security available to people in different parts of the world. In that respect, there is little value in posing the simplistic question of how many people are going to be displaced by climate change. Instead, we should be addressing the more complex issue of the way in which global warming, rising sea levels, changing weather patterns and other manifestations of climate change are

interacting with and reinforcing other global imbalances so as to produce some very powerful drivers of instability, conflict and displacement. I would like to highlight four of those linkages.

First, the process of climate change is constraining the amount of land available for cultivation in many developing countries and is simultaneously reducing agricultural productivity. Confronted with growing levels of poverty and food insecurity, more and more young people are making their way from rural to urban areas, and massive youth unemployment, together with volatile food and commodity prices, is proving to be a clear source of social and political unrest.

Secondly, climate change is reinforcing the potential for conflict within and between States by intensifying the level of competition for scarce resources, including water, grazing land and arable land. Many commentators have pointed to the potential for so-called water wars over transboundary freshwater reserves, which could clearly uproot large numbers of people. Researchers at universities such as the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford, New York University and Harvard, looking at rainfall and temperature records in Africa between 1980 and 2002, have indicated that global warming is strongly related to the incidence of armed conflict, with a one-degree temperature rise increasing the potential for conflict by 50 per cent. I believe it is probably too early to assume that such scientific quantifications are foolproof, but the linkage is clearly there.

Thirdly, there is increasing evidence to suggest that the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters is closely linked to the process of climate change. According to a recent estimate, more than 40 million people were uprooted by natural disasters in 2010 alone, most of them internally displaced in the developing world.

Fourthly, as the representative of an organization that has a mandated responsibility for both refugees and stateless persons, I would like to mention the linkage between climate change and citizenship. Some small island States are confronted with rising sea levels and are becoming highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. Where will these people go if and when it becomes impossible for them to remain in their own country? Some may be able to acquire a second nationality, once they have been obliged to move. But how will they retain their national identity? Is the world ready to accept the idea of a State without a territory? These are questions that the international community has only just started to consider and that now require serious attention.

Although many might argue that climate change does not fall within the competency of the Security Council, the linkages I have set out here today cannot be ignored when looking at matters of peace and security. In a world that is becoming smaller and smaller and is, for the first time, facing physical limits to economic growth, those threats can only grow. The strands that make up this complex picture — climate change, population growth, food insecurity and water scarcity — are the subject of many separate summits and debates, but the international community has no forum today that allows for a comprehensive discussion of and comprehensive response to those trends. I firmly believe that in one way or another that governance gap has to be closed.

At the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, there was broad consensus that the communities most likely to be affected by the consequences of climate change are those that bear the least responsibility for its acceleration. Populations in developing countries are also more exposed to disasters and less able to cope with their effects. When we look at today's bleak picture for mitigation efforts, it is evident that a massive programme of support is essential in order to reinforce the proven resilience of their communities and citizens. Such action should take full account of the fact that women, especially poor women, are most seriously affected by climate change and natural disasters.

But even if we mobilize the international community in this way, it seems unlikely that we will be able to do enough to avert human displacement completely. Indeed, mobility seems likely to be one of the adaptation strategies employed by populations affected by climate change. That is why I believe that it would be appropriate for the international community to formulate and adopt a set of principles specifically designed to reinforce the protection of and find solutions for people who have been forced to leave their own country as a result of catastrophic environmental events but who may not qualify for refugee status under international law. UNHCR will be hosting an intergovernmental event at the ministerial level in Geneva in two weeks' time, where we will

examine such protection gaps affecting the forcibly displaced people of the world.

Finally, let me underline the importance of integrating the issues of climate change and human displacement into all of our conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding endeavours, including the participation of the forcibly displaced in both peace talks and political solutions. People should not be obliged to abandon their homes in order to survive. Once they have been uprooted, they must be given our full support in finding sustainable solutions to their plight. Providing such support is a humanitarian imperative, but it is also in our common interest. If climate change goes unchecked and if we fail to find sustainable solutions for displaced populations, we will be creating the conditions in which further breaches of international peace and security are certain to take place.

The President: I thank Mr. Guterres for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Margaret Chan.

Ms. Chan: I am sorry that I cannot participate at this meeting in person.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity to brief the Council, with full respect for the many heavy burdens on its members' shoulders. The Council is looking at new challenges to peace and security and at ways to prevent conflict. I do not intend to make the Council's burden heavier by suggesting a long list of health problems that should be placed under the Council's watch.

Many health problems addressed by the World Health Organization (WHO) cause deep human misery; several clearly deepen poverty. But most do not directly threaten peace and security, and rarely contribute to conflict. I shall therefore concentrate on a few recent health trends that worry me personally the most. These trends are part of what is happening in the world at large, where health nearly everywhere is being shaped by the same powerful, almost universal, forces — such as ageing populations, the movement of people within and between countries, rapid urbanization and the globalization of unhealthy lifestyles, including substance abuse, and, of course, climate change.

Why are they new? They are new because they arise from this century's unprecedented interdependence and connectivity. The affairs and fates of nations are intertwined as never before. Crises are increasingly broadening their impact. They are highly contagious and profoundly unfair, frequently damaging countries that had nothing to do with the causes.

The world is becoming dangerously out of balance. That worries me. Annual Government expenditures on health range from as little $1 per person to nearly $7,000 per person. The difference in life expectancy between the richest and the poorest countries now exceeds 40 years.

The rising costs of health care worry me, as there are an estimated 2.7 billion people living in countries with no safety net to cover medical costs. For a family living on the fringes, selling the main household asset, such as a cow, to pay for health care means ruin. WHO estimates that 100 million people are driven below the poverty line each year because of catastrophic medical bills.

Infectious diseases worry me, especially new diseases with pandemic potential. In this year alone, WHO has investigated nearly 400 rumours of acute threats to health, mostly from infectious diseases. Of those, only 34 were false alarms, such as rumours of small pox or anthrax cases. Seventy-six were judged to be of low risk to international health. But 230 were major events, such as Ebola outbreaks, multiple outbreaks that threaten to destabilize flooded Pakistan, and 54 cases and 29 deaths from the highly infectious bird flu.

Conflicts worry me, as they are the perfect breeding ground for outbreaks and malnutrition and a perfect setting for the violation of human rights, especially when sexual violence is used as a weapon.

Public misconceptions also worry me, such as the belief that vaccines are dangerous. That is why we have seen large outbreaks of measles that never should have happened, especially in countries with a well-educated public.

Those are some of my top worries. For some of them, I have good news to report. In the past decade, after the fuel, food and financial crises, the issue of governance was hotly debated. For the financial crisis, analysts cited a failure of governance, oversight and risk management at every level of the system. Since the start of this century, WHO and its member States have been managing internationally shared health risks

through the development of new global governance regimens. We have the International Health Regulations, revised after the outbreak of acute respiratory syndrome in 2003. They moved from a reactive response to outbreaks at borders and points of entry to a proactive response aimed at snuffing out a threat at its source, before it had a chance to spread internationally.

The International Health Regulations adopt an all-hazards approach and are on the look out for any acute event where people suddenly fall ill, whether because of infections, food poisoning or exposure to toxic chemicals or radiological materials. Solid background information on what is usual for a season or area make it easier to detect the unusual, such as illness caused by a new pathogen or caused by terrorism.

WHO gleans intelligence about potential outbreaks from constant worldwide electronic surveillance and responds through the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, which draws experts from more than 300 technical institutions. Many are in the countries of members of the Council. I therefore want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for their contribution.

We are also drawing on many high-level biosecurity laboratories, as we have a new framework that sets our obligations for the sharing of viruses, influence of viruses and of the benefits, such as medicines and vaccines during an influenza pandemic. That is the newest governance instrument, approved just last May, by the World Health Assembly.

The negotiations behind the framework were the most intense and potentially explosive that I have ever seen during my 35 years in public health. But in a spirit of consensus and fair play, member States eventually produced a square deal for everybody, including the pharmaceutical industry. These new governance regimes tell us what countries really want. They want collective security against shared threats. They want risks to be proactively managed, with an emphasis on prevention. They want rules of proper, responsible conduct. They want fairness — a square deal for everybody.

I have one final point. This year's protests in the Middle East have captured world attention and toppled some Governments. Many analysts saw those events as uprisings against inequalities in income levels and opportunities, especially for youth. Some experts now believe that greater equality must become the new economic and political imperative for a stable and more secure world. I have no idea if that will happen. Personally, I would welcome such a policy imperative with open arms. Prevention is the heart of public health, and equity is the soul.

The President: I thank Ms. Chan for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Alkalaj (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I would like to commend you, Foreign Minister Portas, for organizing this important meeting. I also thank Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Mr. António Guterres and Ms. Margaret Chan for their comprehensive briefings.

The modern world is in a process of constant change. That inevitably brings new global challenges, some of which have the potential to pull entire regions into conflict. The Security Council's growing focus on the evolving nature of challenges in recent times signifies that a comprehensive and combined approach is needed to maintain international peace and security. In light of that, this debate is particularly important as an opportunity to assess possible ways of addressing those issues.

Transnational organized crime, as one of the new threats to peace and security, flourishes in environments lacking adequate State authorities. It uses the advances in globalization to undermine State institutions, thus creating increased vulnerability and instability. Organized crime represents a threat not only to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and socio-economic development but also to peace and security. In that regard and bearing in mind the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the development assistance community should continue to support UNODC in its efforts to help improve criminal justice systems in vulnerable countries, especially in Africa. The Security Council should continue to promote cooperation between UNODC and different parts of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at addressing the cross-cutting nature of organized crime. We furthermore consider the strengthening of international, regional and subregional cooperation to be of paramount importance in combating transnational organized crime.

In an increasingly interconnected world, growing populations and the increasing demand for resources can generate social tensions, political unrest or even conflict. In that context, possible the link between climate change and security risks should be taken into consideration. The adverse impact of climate change can contribute to aggravating existing threats to international peace and security. The Security Council should therefore be aware of the possible security implications of climate change, including potential humanitarian crises, migration pressures and external shocks, on States heavily affected by climate change.

Relevant United Nations bodies should strengthen their capacity to deal with crises resulting from climate change, focusing their efforts on predicting, preventing and handling climate change-related issues. The importance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change cannot be overemphasized, as it calls for the widest possible cooperation by all States.

Conditions of violence and instability can exacerbate the spread of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria, by increasing the risk of exposure through large movements of people, widespread uncertainty, reduced access to medical care and conflict-related sexual violence. Populations fleeing conflict areas, displaced persons and refugees in camp settings are particularly vulnerable. At the same time, the spread of diseases has a negative impact on all sectors of society, as well as on peace and security.

Peacekeeping operations and their personnel can play an important role in disease prevention in post-conflict settings, especially in raising HIV awareness. In that regard, we commend efforts by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to educate and train peacekeepers in gender awareness, child protection and the ability to recognize and respond to sexual violence and exploitation.

Complementarity and cooperation among United Nations bodies and agencies are needed in efforts to prevent the spread of diseases. The Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies, such as the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, need to harmonize their activities and work closely with local communities targeting vulnerable categories.

We wish to emphasize that the primary responsibility in identifying priorities and strategies for potential challenges to international peace and security rests with the States concerned. If countries lack knowledge or resources, the role of the United Nations and international and regional organizations is to support and complement the functions and activities of national Governments, as appropriate.

International and regional organizations and United Nations agencies should continue to monitor situations that pose potential risks to civilian populations and peace and security. Appropriate planning and design of strategies to mitigate those challenges must be a priority, particularly in light of the importance of conflict prevention. Sufficient and appropriate funding also needs to be provided.

Cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels is crucial in addressing cross-border challenges. The implementation and further development of international instruments will assist countries in tackling the various security challenges.

As the main body responsible for international peace and security, the Security Council should be receptive to warning signs of potential threats. Timely decision-making processes should be based on verified and reliable information, so that the measures imposed can be effective. Strengthening cooperation between the Council and relevant regional and subregional organizations will give more importance to those issues and keep them constantly on their agendas.

We firmly believe that the Security Council is committed to addressing challenges that may arise and to seeking solutions for the threats discussed today. This debate is an expression of our collective determination to maintain international peace and security. For its part, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains strongly committed to that aim and stands ready to give its full contribution.

Mrs. Machado (Brazil) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Portuguese delegation for the manner in which it has guided the work of this Council. Its dedication to transparency and to the involvement of all of the members of the Council and the Organization in this body's work is a testament to

Portugal's commitment to the strengthening of multilateralism.

In that regard, we understand the usefulness of this stock-taking of the Security Council's engagement with issues that have not traditionally been on its agenda. The concept note circulated by your delegation (S/2011/6668, annex) is informative in recalling the recent history of that engagement.

(*spoke in English*)

I am grateful to the Secretary-General for his useful comments. I also welcome the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yury Fedotov, High Commissioner António Guterres, and Director-General Margaret Chan, and I thank them for their very interesting briefings.

The large number of thematic debates and briefings that the Council has held over the past few years has demonstrated that Member States are interested in engaging with the complex and interrelated nature of global security challenges. It is not enough to address only the most obvious and immediate face of threats. The Council has been clear regarding the need for a long-term view, which takes into account both preventive actions and post-conflict efforts to build truly sustainable peace.

However, there is the unavoidable issue of legitimate action and potential encroachment. The issue of Security Council encroachment on the prerogatives of other United Nations bodies, in particular the General Assembly, still worries a number of delegations, including my own. The Council must recognize and pay attention to the fact that a significant number of Member States continue to be uneasy at the political and legal implications of Council engagement on issues such as climate change.

Faced with that scenario, our only alternative is the path of genuine dialogue with the larger membership and of extreme care in treating thematic issues as direct threats to international peace and security. A legitimate way to advance the discussion without raising concerns is to highlight and explore how the Council's security work can be better integrated with the development and human rights work of other actors. That is the approach we took in promoting our debate on the interdependence of security and development in February.

I will give two concrete examples. First of all, the Security Council must have access to a greater scope of information. Even though it does not deal directly with economic, environmental or health issues, the Council must know where those issues exist and the specific way in which they interact with the security situation in each specific situation on its agenda. The presidential statements on development (S/PRST/2011/4) and on the possible security implications of climate change (S/PRST/2011/15) have language along those lines.

Secondly, in every thematic area, the Council must work harder to understand the operational issues that hamper the integration of the various aspects of the reality on the ground. Certainly, the Secretariat must do a better job of internal coordination and of cooperating with the agencies, funds and programmes. However, Member States must also work harder to ensure the consistency of the guidance that they give through the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Executive Boards and other organs.

Over the past few months, my delegation has had the opportunity to discuss, in this Chamber, our position on the links between security and such issues as organized crime, HIV/AIDS and the adverse impact of climate change. Today, I will briefly reiterate our position on the last of those issues.

There are clear links between climate change and development and between security and development. The possible security implications of climate change are far less obvious. In most cases, the exacerbation of existing disputes resulting from the effects of climate change arises from the lack of financial and technological resources for adaptation.

That underlines the need for political, economic and humanitarian approaches to those issues. While security tools are appropriate to deal with specific threats to international peace and security, they are ill-suited to facing climate change. Effectively fighting climate change and dealing with its myriad implications must be a priority for the international community. That underscores the importance of redoubling our efforts to achieve ambitious results in international negotiations on climate change.

The new challenges to international peace and security are to be addressed using instruments that promote capacity-building and the strengthening of national institutions. That kind of cooperative focus will inevitably be more effective and have more

sustainable results than attempts to punish, isolate or repress. Assistance and cooperation, rather than coercion, must be our watchwords.

Ms. Londoño (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his presence and his opening statement, which raise the profile of today's debate.

I should also like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate, which provides an appropriate forum in which to express our views on this issue. I am grateful for the presence here today of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres; and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Margaret Chan.

When we address the issue of threats to peace and security, as this Council has done over the years, we refer to threats both old and new. There are multiple challenges on the global agenda, but not all negative global phenomena are, in and of themselves, threats to peace and security.

To speak of new challenges to international peace and security is to enter a wide-ranging and vague territory. There are several sources of instability in the economic, social, humanitarian and environmental spheres that may exacerbate existing threats and that may have a greater impact on situations involving weak institutions or in conflict and/or post-conflict settings. It is worth remembering that the *World Development Report 2011* notes that institutional legitimacy is the key to stability and that, without it, the likelihood of conflict may increase.

In that context, we must acknowledge that the global agenda is complex and multifaceted, and that it occasionally creates problems that affect the conditions for international peace and security. The latter does not mean that the Council should address all of the issues on the global agenda, which would lead to "growing securitization".

The United Nations system has identified specific areas for action. As part of efforts to address the range of global problems, the international community has built a specialized and distinct architecture, which has its own areas of competence. Under that framework, the organs, agencies and entities created over the past few decades must work together with a view to protecting the common interests of humankind.

As part of its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, while dealing with the requirements of collective security, carries out and must carry out the important work of promoting substantive initiatives to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts. In addition, the Council has recognized that building sustainable peace requires an integrated approach that enhances coherent action in the political, security, development and human rights areas and that promotes the rule of law.

As part of a consistent approach and in the scope of the issues under its consideration, the Council plays an important role in supporting efforts to strengthen the rule of law and in building national capacities to ensure continuity in the functioning of institutions and in the provision of services during the transition and peacebuilding processes.

A logical approach would be to channel the Council's work in two non-exclusive but rather complementary directions. First, it is possible to build transparent institutional bridges among the various international entities and organizations. In that way, each will be able to develop its own goals and, at the same time, the bridges will create the synergies needed for information to flow properly among them and ensure that all can provide and receive adequate feedback. That is a topic of crucial importance in discussions on United Nations reform. In some cases, this involves structural mechanisms. In others, it involves procedural matters that we should discuss.

The new challenges, as they are known, have their own mechanisms and forums in other United Nations entities and even outside the system. The Council's analysis of those so-called new challenges makes sense only when, in certain cases and under specific circumstances, those challenges may exacerbate existing threats in situations being considered by the Council, or when the Council is carrying out a strategic analysis of conflict prevention.

Secondly, we must remember that the Security Council's functions are defined in the Charter. In recent years, the Council has preferred to focus on its obligations under Chapter VII, leaving behind the very broad provisions set out in Chapter VI. In that sense, it would be worthwhile to reflect on how to strengthen

the application of Chapter VI so that Council can respond to those new challenges in the framework of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. That would, in turn, help to identify effective cooperation mechanisms that would restore confidence and underpin dialogue in situations involving complex issues and conflicting views.

The magnitude and complexity of the global agenda requires comprehensive and coordinated action by the United Nations and the international community. In that regard, an effort should be made to highlight the work of the General Assembly and other relevant forums, given their universal and specialized nature as forums for discussion and consensus-building, to address the issues raised by the so-called new challenges.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Let me start by thanking you, Mr. President, for bring us together to discuss these new challenges to peace and security. Many thanks also to Executive Director Fedotov, High Commissioner Guterres and Director-General Chan for their briefings today. I also welcome the Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Colombia to our discussions.

The threats we are discussing today — illicit trafficking, climate change and pandemics — know no boundaries and cannot be tackled by one country alone. They require collective action, which the Council encourages by placing these items on its agenda and taking stock of United Nations programmes aimed at addressing them. I would like to comment briefly on each.

First, illicit trafficking of drugs, arms and, particularly, trafficking in persons is devastating, destroying lives, fuelling conflict and preying on the powerless. The criminals involved operate in increasingly complex and diversified underground markets and networks, without respect for borders, laws or basic human dignity. These networks subvert legitimate economic activities, undermine sustainable development and political stability, fuel violence and corruption and weaken the rule of law. In some areas these criminals are aiding and abetting terrorists, thus undermining effective development and governance.

We must continue to work together to deny these criminals every advantage and defeat them at every turn. We must continue to set and update international standards, pool our resources and expertise and close safe havens. We are already on the right track. The United Nations provides critical assistance to States for implementation of the three United Nations drug control conventions that form the backbone of our common approach.

In 2009 the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly adopted an action plan to counter the world drug problem. International organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are essential in the fight transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Member States can rely on the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument to deal with the issue of small arms and light weapons. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, together with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime form the primary international framework and are essential to counter trafficking in persons.

The United States continues to do its part. In 2010 we contributed $34 million to support UNODC's programmes for treaty implementation support. In the past year we have announced three initiatives to combat transnational threats: the Central American Citizen Security Partnership, the West Africa Cooperative Security Initiative, and the Central Asian Counternarcotics Initiative. We are committed to working with UNODC and with other nations to deny safe havens to transnational crime and to provide an environment where laws can be enforced, rights are protected and sustainable development and business can proceed.

I turn now to climate change. This Council held a debate last July and heard Member States' deep concerns that climate change will be a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing challenges and vulnerabilities. Climate change has the potential to reduce the availability of food and water, threaten biodiversity, raise sea levels and disrupt weather patterns, exposing all of us to greater risk. Many regions of the world will be vulnerable to more intense and longer droughts, putting lives and livelihoods in peril. This is a particular concern where poverty or conflict already strains the capacity of communities to cope. Small and

low-lying island States have real concerns about erosion and land loss due to sea-level rise.

As our understanding of the effects of climate change on security evolves, including the risk of displacement and migration, we recognize the need for more collaborative analysis and action. We believe the Security Council should remain open to continuing to consider this issue.

The United States reaffirms the important role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in facilitating an urgent response by all countries to address the challenge of climate change. We are committed to working with all countries to achieve a balanced and comprehensive outcome at the Framework Convention negotiations in Durban next month.

Finally, our interconnections are especially evident in global health. New infectious disease threats such as the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and H5N1 avian influenza have emerged. Nearly eradicated diseases such as polio have returned. Infectious diseases pay no heed to international borders. A threat that emerges in one country can quickly spread across the globe and can be addressed only through collective action. The international community's response to the H5N1 outbreak — including sharing of information, expertise, medicines and vaccines — was unprecedented and led to significantly improved animal health surveillance and response capacities around the world.

We all faced the challenge squarely, both in capitals and in national forums. Now we must maintain momentum to ensure that those systems are regularized, not only to keep the H5N1 virus in check but also to protect ourselves from the next pandemic threat that emerges.

The United States actively supports several initiatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) that build on the lessons learned, including the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and the 2005 International Health Regulations. We recently concluded a memorandum of understanding with WHO to strengthen collaboration in global health security. We continue to work with partner countries to improve their own public health surveillance, preparedness and capacities for response.

Transnational threats are relevant to the Council's core responsibilities. The Security Council of the twenty-first century must continue to work to anticipate potential threats and be part of broader efforts to intensify collaboration across the system. We look forward to working with fellow Council members to find ways to be better informed, including by opening dialogue with institutions such as the WHO that do not deal with conventional security threats but which are on the front line in facing these new dangers.

It is also important to be open to greater engagement with other parts of the United Nations system and to encourage United Nations agencies to work more closely together to anticipate and manage unconventional threats.

Finally, these issues remind us of the importance of a more traditional priority for us: the need to build State capacity. For example, post-conflict countries already struggling to rebuild infrastructure, strengthen institutions and consolidate peace are especially vulnerable to some of the stresses generated by transnational threats. Climate change will demand stronger and more resilient institutional capacities for development and for disaster prevention and response. Emerging infectious diseases require stronger public health systems. Village clinics will often be the first to observe emergent diseases and need to be able to respond swiftly and in cooperation with wider international capacities to manage infectious disease. Trafficking networks thrive where State institutions are fragile and interdiction capacities are limited.

New challenges to security will be an important part of our Council's work in the future. Today's debate is a step in the right direction, and we thank Portugal for its initiative.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I want to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this seminal meeting to undertake a strategic review of emerging challenges to international security. I am grateful to the Secretary-General for his statement. I also thank Mr. Fedotov, Ms. Chan and Mr. Guterres, whose incisive contributions have immensely enriched today's discussions.

The nature and content of international security have continued to evolve and expand over the years. Today they encompass a variety of interconnected issues in the world that have an impact on survival. They range from traditional or conventional modes of

military power, the causes and consequences of war between States and economic strength to ethnic, religious and ideological conflicts, trade and economic conflicts, energy supplies, technology, food and threats to human security. Such issues have evolved to include threats to the stability of States from environmental degradation, from infectious diseases, from climate change and from the activities of non-State actors. Our evolving international security landscape is marked by multiple threats that have no boundaries and respect neither borders nor nationalities. This certainly includes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, drug and human trafficking, as well as the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Since ours is a world of extreme inequality, deprivation, marginalization and exclusion, those problems are compounded by systemic issues, such as underdevelopment, pressure on natural resources and difficulties related to social cohesion and governance. The spread and nature of conflicts and their spillover have, in their turn, reshaped the international security paradigm.

Those complex challenges call for vision, creativity, commitment and leadership from the United Nations and Member States. The Council should consider repositioning itself to deal with the evolving nature of international security. The interconnected nature of security and development underlies the theme of today's meeting. Appreciating the threat caused by environmental degradation, illicit trafficking and HIV/AIDS and other global pandemics entails recognition of the fact that developing societies are more vulnerable to insecurity brought about or exacerbated by that underdevelopment itself.

In effect, there is a chilling symbiosis between conflict and underdevelopment. We live in the era of environmental refugees. The changing climate has a direct impact on agricultural productivity, animal health and access to clean water. The resulting food insecurity has in many countries forced communities to become nomadic in search of an environment that can sustain them and their livelihoods. In many cases, people walk across borders, concentrating the pressure on already scarce resources in a bid for survival. Such environmental challenges are magnified by political instability and insecurity. There is a clear and substantive overlap between our efforts to target criminals and our efforts to better protect their victims. The recent signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) marks a major shift in the approach to addressing the threat posed by human and arms trafficking. We welcome that development. The illicit trafficking of people and weapons constitutes an affront to the dignity and autonomy of the person. The criminal networks responsible are far-reaching, well-funded and well-connected, yet they can be broken down.

There must be a collective effort to address both the magnitude and the transnational nature of those emerging challenges. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon actually observed in a message to the second International Meeting of High Representatives on Security Issues in September of this year, "No single country can address transnational threats on its own; only joint efforts at local, national, regional and international levels will suffice ". That is why we must cooperate more effectively with our partner organs within the United Nations to delineate a concerted, comprehensive response, one that supports States in their efforts to head off emerging challenges to maintaining peace and stability in an increasingly changing world. We would accordingly welcome serious consideration of an ad hoc working group to monitor those emerging challenges and assist the Council it its response.

Our international efforts must also be replicated at the national level. With an appropriate level of political commitment and support from the international community, States can prepare themselves for and guard against those threats to security, both from within and from without their borders. The threats that we now face are globalized, and their human agents are getting more sophisticated. We cannot allow our collective response to be outpaced.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your timely initiative in convening today's briefing and debate on new security challenges. We welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing, as well as Mr. Yuri Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. António Guterres, the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, for their insightful briefings.

Germany firmly believes that managing and resolving threats to international security without understanding their underlying causes and dynamics can at best lead only to temporary solutions. Our world is at the beginning of this new century facing a whole array of tremendous new challenges. Among them are poverty, infectious diseases, transnational organized crime and climate change, just to name a few. This Council recognized the challenges of climate change on security when, under the German presidency in the month of July, it adopted a substantial and forward-looking presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/15) on that issue. Today's debate is an excellent opportunity to take a systematic look at those diverse threats and challenges.

Let me briefly elaborate on three areas that deserve particular attention. First on the list is health. Since the first discussion of the linkages between HIV/AIDS and international peace and security over a decade ago, the Security Council has come a long way, having recently adopted resolution 1983 (2011) on that issue. Today, it is widely acknowledged that conflict situations can aggravate health problems and that vulnerable populations, such as refugees or children in an armed conflict, face higher health risks. At the same time, we know that the spread of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS can fuel conflicts by weakening the capacities of national Governments and by destroying existing social structures.

We would therefore like to encourage donors, United Nations agencies and affected States to further integrate health into stabilization and rehabilitation programmes and to promote innovative models of cooperation. One such model is the Debt2Health initiative launched jointly by the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the German Government in 2007. By redirecting funds from debt repayments towards life-saving investments in health, Debt2Health has improved public health systems and strengthened partnership, including with conflict-affected countries. Besides significantly decreasing health-related root causes of conflict, there is also a need to highlight the importance of addressing health issues in the aftermath of conflict. The physical and psychological consequences of violence, including sexual violence, often constitute a heavy burden for stabilization, reconstruction and development in post-conflict societies. Mainstreaming health issues into peace-building activities therefore remains a key challenge that is often overlooked.

My second point concerns the interrelationship between climate change, migration and security. In some regions of our planet, climate change-induced migration is a reality already today. People are migrating because their traditional homes are under threat by a rising sea level, by increasing drought and desertification, and by the increasingly destructive power of natural disasters.

Climate change will hardly be the only factor in a crisis. The terrible famine in the Horn of Africa is an example of that.

We have to acknowledge that despite our ongoing efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change — and the seventeenth United Nations Climate Change Conference is beginning in Durban five days from now — migration has already become an adaptation strategy for people affected by climate change. The number of affected people within and across borders will clearly rise, potentially leading to insecurity and conflict, in addition to the personal plight of millions of people.

Germany very much supports the approach that UNHCR is taking in this regard. We need more research into and better understanding of migration processes. We must be guided by the fundamental principles of human dignity, human rights and international cooperation. The international community may also need to look more closely into the adequacy and appropriateness of the legal and political instruments at hand, a complex task for all of us. We will also have to look more closely into the security implications of migration, which will require a comprehensive approach, including on the part of the Security Council within its work on new and emerging security threats.

With a view to Durban, let me add that the worst case is not inevitable, and mitigation remains key in this regard.

My third point concerns transnational organized crime. The composition and operational methods of transnational organized criminal groups have become more sophisticated in recent years, and their activities continue to pose a significant threat to international

peace and security. The seriousness of the problem lies in the global penetration achieved by such organizations and in the threat they pose to democracy and legitimate economic development. These problems are compounded by the fact that in many cases the capacity of States to establish the rule of law is weakened by corruption, weak judicial systems and a lack of effective policing capacity.

The scale of the challenge requires a coordinated response from the international community. In that context, we regard the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime — the Palermo Convention — as one of the crucial instruments for enhancing international cooperation in combating organized crime, and we would like to seize the opportunity to appeal to all States that have not yet done so to ratify it as soon as possible.

In 2011 alone my country has contributed around $7 million to projects implemented by UNODC in the area of combating organized crime and drug trafficking, and we intend to continue our financial support for such projects. As a good example of such successful cooperation, I would like to mention the Global Container Control Programme, jointly conducted by UNODC and the World Customs Organization. This Programme is aimed at building capacity through training.

Let us not forget that prevention is key to countering today's threats. We as Member States must build up our own capacities and help others to do the same in order to exercise our sovereignty responsibly, deal with internal dangers before they threaten others, and act collectively with other States to meet threats on a global scale.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon): I would like to thank you for convening this important meeting, Mr. President, and for honouring us with your presence. Allow me also to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and Mr. Fedotov, Mr. Guterres and Ms. Chan for their statements.

According to the Charter, our Organization was founded to maintain international peace and security, and to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace. The meaning of security can no longer be linked to the absence of military threats. We are now exposed to an array of additional areas in which security risks manifest themselves.

Indeed, in recent decades the Security Council has been preoccupied with and has held various deliberations about a wide range of issues that might potentially constitute a threat to peace and security, such as drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism, HIV/AIDS, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the adverse effects of climate change and so forth. Countries under stress and emerging from conflict are particularly vulnerable to such challenges, which too often fuel and prolong existing conflicts and pose threats to peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict States.

In fact, risks that transcend boundaries — for example, pandemics and transnational crime networks — are not new. However, the dimensions of the threat they may constitute are novel and changing in the increasingly globalized world we live in. Consequently, our response should be collective and adaptable to such evolving circumstances and challenges.

Moreover, issues such as the proliferation of arms, piracy, mass migration and organized crime are complex and multifaceted. They carry much weight in their implications for both human and political development, on the one hand, and for peace and stability, on the other. They therefore require a multilateral approach in the security realm and beyond.

Perhaps the only truly effective way forward is through increased cooperation, greater preparedness and creative diplomacy that is preventive in nature. No single United Nations body or agency, no single country or regional organization has either the capacity or the jurisdictional reach to effectively address such contemporary challenges, including their security dimensions. That is why strong partnerships among all major international, regional and local stakeholders are necessary to meet them, and that is why the Security Council should be prepared to address their potential security dimensions and effects. We also believe that development and national capacity-building should be cornerstones in any comprehensive approach or strategic framework designed to address security challenges.

Finally, our Council is constantly facing the challenge of finding innovative ways to tackle major economic, political and social challenges having security dimensions that lie ahead. That is our moral responsibility towards present and future generations.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful for the statement of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. We thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Margaret Chan, for their reports on the work of the entities they head.

Our discussion today shows that the number of threats facing humanity as we step across the threshold of the second decade of the twenty-first century has not diminished; quite the contrary. Along with the emergence of new threats, the old ones have worsened. Recently the trend towards aggressive interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States has increased. The complex processes occurring in some of these States and the conflicts that sometimes result require the establishment of a dialogue between the authorities and the opposition, with the participation of all civic and political groups, based on a refusal to use any form of violence and with the aim of achieving political and economic reform.

For that it would be useful to have the support of the international community and regional organizations. We sometimes see an arbitrary and detached treatment of the concept of legitimacy, provocative calls for further confrontation, and open or veiled threats of the use of force in the guise of humanitarian slogans. The path to intervention leads to chaos in various regions and in international relations in general.

All the above contradict the basic norms and principles of modern international law, the United Nations Charter and the very essence of the work of our global organization.

We recognize the evolving nature of new challenges to international peace and security. We see increasingly closer and persistent links among the various kinds of transnational crime, in particular terrorism and drug trafficking. That list includes the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, piracy, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and cybercrime.

The true danger of those threats and challenges is recognized by the Council, but we need additional analysis of their links, which have driven the threat to a new and increasingly dangerous level. Indeed, that is how we see the Council's future work on the issue, bearing in mind its responsibility under the Charter to maintain international peace and security.

The basis for that work is set out in a number of the Council's earlier decisions, in particular the presidential statement of 24 February 2010 (S/PRST/2010/4). We reiterate the special relevance of that statement and the Council's invitation in it to the Secretary-General to consider the interconnected threat of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as a factor in conflict analysis and in the assessment and planning of integrated missions, as well as in analyzing the role of those threats in situations on the Council's agenda.

Such challenges are increasingly prominent, in particular with regard to the drug threat from Afghanistan, which remains extremely serious. The devastating influence of Afghan drug trafficking, exacerbated by terrorism, extends far beyond the region. Here we are dealing with a threat to international peace and stability brought about through the interconnection among various kinds of criminal activity. The response to such a threat must be comprehensive and coordinated, including through the adoption a system-wide United Nations track on new challenges.

In that context, we positively assess the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen interdepartmental cooperation within the United Nations, including the establishment of a multidisciplinary task force of the Secretariat on transnational crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability, led by UNODC and the Department of Political Affairs.

The new threats are creating illegal arms flows in various parts of the world. We note that phenomenon in the example of Libyan arms. It would be particularly dangerous if those weapons were to fall into the hands of terrorists. At Russia's initiative, the Council adopted resolution 2017 (2011). It conveyed the required message and designates the necessary frameworks to counter that new threat.

In an era of globalization, a negative aspect of information and communications technology developments is the growing new threats from cybercrime. Russia advocates adopting more effective measures to regulate the use of such technologies and the Internet, while maintaining the appropriate

freedoms. The Council has already expressed its concern about increasing cybercrime. We believe that a universal convention on cooperation to combat information crime and cybercrime and on rules for a code of conduct in cyberspace must now be developed.

We look forward to supporting initiatives and agreements of Member States in that area through UNODC and other structures of the Secretariat task force on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.

Another new threat is piracy off the coast of Somalia, a well-organized and profitable business. Piracy is now spreading to the western shores of the African continent. Combating that phenomenon requires serious and comprehensive measures by the international community. For Russia, an important aspect of that fight is putting an end to impunity for the pirates, at the level not only of perpetrators but also of their industry bosses. We will continue to strengthen our efforts on that issue.

With respect to climate change and diseases, the United Nations structure that has developed to consider such issues allows us to provide a appropriate response to growing threats in that area. We are convinced that the priority role here belongs and should belong, first and foremost, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the World Health Organization as the universal mechanisms to counter global threats in those areas. Those bodies have the necessary and adequate machinery to develop effective and long-term strategies for international cooperation, as well as concrete measures for a prompt response.

Mr. Mashabane (South Africa): My delegation expresses its sincere appreciation to the Portuguese presidency for having organized this high-level briefing. We welcome His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal and thank him for presiding over this debate. My delegation also welcomes the participation in this meeting of the Secretary-General, and we thank him for his statement. We also thank the various briefers who have briefed this meeting. We also acknowledge the presence of the high-level representatives present at this meeting.

In five days, South Africa will welcome thousands of delegates to the shores of Durban as the incoming President of the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

The global awareness of the threat caused by human-induced climate change on our planet and civilization began in the late 1970s, culminating in the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force in 1994.

While there continues to be debate on the suitability of the Security Council as a platform to address new and emerging issues, such as climate change, South Africa believes that the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol remain the best instruments to deal with the broader challenges of climate change. My delegation therefore reiterates its principled view that climate change threatens not only development prospects and the achievement of sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of societies.

Of critical importance, therefore, is the need for all countries to honour the obligations under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol if we are to effectively deal with the challenges precipitated by climate change, in accordance with the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The contribution that individual members of the Security Council can make to the UNFCCC processes is to ensure that the architecture of the climate change regime is strengthened, not fragmented.

The Durban conference, with its theme "Working Together: Saving Tomorrow Today", provides the international community an opportunity to demonstrate real leadership in finding effective solutions to the threat that climate change presents to the livelihood, quality of life, dignity and, in many cases, the very survival of millions across the globe. South Africa is of the strong view that the Durban conference will provide a platform from which the strengthening of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention beyond 2010, through a comprehensive, multilateral and rules-based system on climate change, enforceable and equally binding on all, can be achieved.

A second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol for developed countries is essential. No gap between the first and the second commitment periods

must occur. For those developed countries that are not party to the Kyoto Protocol and for those that reject a second commitment period, comparable and measurable mitigation commitments must be implemented and must be equally enforceable. On the other hand, developing countries must implement their declared mitigation actions, assisted through the necessary support in a measurable and transparent manner. Making the Cancun mechanism and institutions fully operational and honouring the financial undertakings already made are again part of that delicate balance.

Turning to drugs and crime, we are of the view that drugs and crime threaten development, create instability and jeopardize the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In acknowledging the challenge of drugs and crime, the international community adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We call upon Member States to implement that Convention and other relevant international conventions. International cooperation, including bilateral and regional treaties on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters, are key tools in fighting organized crime.

In that regard, we need a comprehensive and integrated approach that strengthens coordination among the countries of origin, transit and destination. South Africa welcomes the role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the creation of the regional programmes. Those programmes are important, as they assist countries with technical support in their fight against the world drug problem and strengthen the partnership between the UNODC, regional bodies and Member States. In this regard, we welcome the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the UNODC and the Commission of the African Union under which the two organizations work towards complementarity of their activities.

The international community has made great strides in dealing with the issue of HIV/AIDS, but much remains to be done. That was clearly articulated in the Political Declaration (General Assembly resolution 65/277) adopted by the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 8 to 10 June 2011. The Meeting confirmed and adopted meaningful and forward-looking commitments aimed at guiding and intensifying the global response to HIV/AIDS. That will include, among other things, resource mobilization for the AIDS response, strengthening health-care systems and integrating HIV/AIDS into broader health and development. This comprehensive recommitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS addresses the epidemic from all possible perspectives, which requires the involvement and participation of the widest possible range of stakeholders and Member States.

It is the view of South Africa that the response to HIV/AIDS can best be dealt with by the United Nations system and structures that allow for unrestricted participation by all Member States. South Africa is of the view that HIV/AIDS per se does not constitute and has not been proved in the past eight years to be a threat or a new challenge to international peace and security.

Turning to the issue of refugees, we call on the international community once again to address the root causes of people fleeing their countries. We must therefore find comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and realize durable solutions for them. South Africa has an unwavering and steadfast commitment to the protection of refugees as described in international conventions and protocols.

In conclusion, my delegation firmly believes that no amount of debate or statements and declarations by the Council will address what we call today emerging threats. What is needed is to deliver on the commitments agreed upon in the various organs and platforms of the United Nations. International cooperation, financial resource mobilization and technological investment is what is required to address the global challenges facing our common humanity that we seek to address today.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): We should like to thank you, Sir, for presiding over our work and for the fresh opportunity that your country has afforded the Council to debate the issue of new challenges to international peace and security. I welcome the participation in our discussions of Their Excellencies the Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Colombia.

We wish also to thank the briefers — Mr. Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); High Commissioner António Guterres; Director-General Margaret Chan; and the Secretary-General — for their contributions to this debate.

In recent years the Council has held several debates that enabled it to take stock of these new challenges to international peace and security. As a result, it was able to identify the factors that intensify such challenges and the real risks arising from them. Those challenges include an increase in international drug trafficking and a resurgence of transnational organized crime, which contribute to the destabilization of States and the undermining of post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

The proliferation and illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons heighten this threat, intensifying insecurity for the civilian population. These weapons have become a principal instrument in conflicts, worsening their impact and prolonging them.

There are two other challenges of concern to us. The first is the increasingly evident relationship between the HIV/AIDS pandemic and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. We would recall that the President of the Gabonese Republic chaired the Council meeting (see S/PV.6547) leading to the adoption of resolution 1983 (2011) on this issue.

Gabon is also concerned at the potential implications of climate change for international stability and security in the economic, social and environmental areas as well as for movements of refugees and persons displaced both within and beyond the borders of their country. Gabon is hopeful that the United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Durban, will provide an opportunity to make headway on the issue of the impact of climate change.

In the face of these challenges, we are all in agreement that we need a comprehensive, agreed approach that is based on the multidimensional and interdependent character of the new threats. It is important that the United Nations address these issues in an open manner, and in that respect the Council must take a forward-looking approach.

In that connection, Gabon made its contribution to the work of the Council by holding, during its two presidencies of the Council, in March 2010 and June 2011, two debates and a briefing on, respectively, the illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on peace and security, as I mentioned earlier, and the issue of trafficking in drugs and transnational organized crime. France, Germany and Burkina Faso also placed particular emphasis on these challenges during their presidency of the Council in previous years.

Given the concerns that we have just voiced, it is important that the Secretary-General continue to keep the Council informed about developments relating to these new challenges and make recommendations on the best ways of addressing them. The Council must also have its own tools for dealing with these new challenges. In that context, Gabon supports the establishment of an ad hoc working group charged with looking at the interdependence of those challenges and make concrete recommendations in order to provide the Council with better guidance in those areas.

The Security Council must explore new avenues aimed at improving its cooperation with the United Nations agencies, programmes and funds that deal with such matters, as well as with regional and subregional organizations. These two aspects of cooperation are major underpinnings of the Council's central role in the process of the prevention and long-term resolution of conflicts.

In closing, let me say that the maintenance of international peace and security is an immense task that the Council cannot shoulder alone. The new global geopolitical context requires the creation of new synergies in the areas of cooperation and solidarity so as to provide a comprehensive response to the emergence of these new threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): In following my Gabonese colleague, I will extend this French-speaking oasis. That is not to say, however, that everything else is desert.

First of all, I should like to thank all those who have spoken for their briefings, and I welcome the initiative of the Portuguese presidency.

Since the February 2010 debate on cross-cutting threats (see S/PV.6277), which my country proposed, some progress has been made in addressing those issues in the Council. I am thinking in particular of resolution 1983 (2011) on security and AIDS, on the debate organized by Gabon on drug trafficking and organized transnational crime (see S/PV.6565), and on the debate organized by Germany on climate change (see S/PV.6587). Those advances are a sign of the Council's interest in these issues. It is indeed our

responsibility to anticipate the consequences of those new threats for international peace and security.

I thank the director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his briefing. By undermining States' capacities for governance and economic development, illicit trafficking and organized crime weaken State structures and destabilize entire regions. The Council has witnessed this for itself with respect to Haiti, Afghanistan and Guinea-Bissau. Particular attention should already be focused on the Sahel region in view of the worsening security situation in that area, which has been infected by multiple forms of trafficking. It is time for us to develop a Sahelian strategy.

The regional programmes of the UNODC effectively contribute to the comprehensive, joint and integrated approach that the Council hopes will prevent conflicts, as the statements made earlier by my colleagues indicate. France, for its part, is actively promoting such a strategy. The Group of Eight meetings on cocaine and the Paris Pact of early 2012 fall within the framework outlined by the Council through a series of decisions. Further, my country calls for the universalization of the Palermo Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and of other instruments to combat drugs and psychotropic substances.

I also wish to thank the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). The fight against natural and accidental risks and against threats requires common action to strengthen all stages of monitoring and alert systems, rapid response preparation and health crisis management.

Over the course of the past decade, we have made outstanding progress in preparing for and preventing the risk of pandemics. Eleven years ago, resolution 1308 (2000) recognized that the AIDS pandemic was a threat to international peace and security. Last June, we noted the degree to which AIDS constitutes a handicap to stabilization in post-conflict situations, above all because the pandemic affects women first and foremost in their fundamental role in the reconstruction phase. The Council has also called for concerted effort against the spread of AIDS during conflict due to the rise in sexual violence as a weapon of war.

The WHO remains the lead manager for health security in crisis situations, above all in times of conflict or in their aftermath. The WHO should also pursue its monitoring of the risk of epidemics and pandemics by relying on the network of contact points it has established, and it should oversee the revised International Health Regulations, which have been legally binding on all Member States since they entered into force in 2007. The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework approved last May by the World Health Assembly could be used to advantage for other kinds of epidemics.

Finally, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reminded us today, the displacement of populations is the result of complex causes and should claim a greater share of the Council's attention. The situation of refugees and displaced persons as a result of conflicts can serve as a deterrent to the re-establishment of stability. Climate change, which is one of many factors that influence the decision to migrate, should be taken into greater account in conflict prevention.

In a more general sense, as July's debate reminded us, the threat of climate change concerns us all. It affects small island States, food security, water resources and the viability of coastal regions. My country wishes and hopes that the Durban Conference will give an operational content to the agreements negotiated at Cancún, so that the international community can prove that it is capable of combating threats while there is still time.

France hopes that the Council will remain invested in these issues, which place international peace and security in mortal peril and have consequences on our work. France believes that the Council should discuss these questions in a regular and systematic fashion.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to thank you, Sir, for the opportunity today to take stock of the recent debates and discussions on new challenges to international peace and security. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his introduction and António Guterres, Margaret Chan and Yury Fedotov for their informative briefings.

The Security Council is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. In recent years, it has become a common and a just refrain in this Council to emphasize the importance of effective conflict prevention. Prevention should be considered a key element of the Council's work. We

believe it is natural, therefore, for the Council to tackle cross-cutting challenges such as those put forward for today's discussion. All three issues — matters related to international peace and security — are drivers of the kinds of political, economic or social changes that can generate modern conflict. All three issues have the capacity to convert existing tensions or pressures into instability or violence. As Mr. Guterres pointed out, Somalia is a compelling proof of that.

Our understanding of conflict has evolved over time. We have developed a more sophisticated appreciation of the relationship between security, development and inequality, for example. As the frequency of international conflict has diminished, so this Council has found itself occupied more often by intra-State conflict. We have taken on peacebuilding. We have placed the protection of civilians under imminent threat at the centre of many peacekeeping operations.

As we become more confident in our conflict prevention role, we have begun to develop a more subtle appreciation of factors that may indicate the potential for conflict or that may exacerbate existing conflict. It follows, then, that this Council should be alert and responsive to the broader factors that contribute to conflict sensitivity in a region. That does not mean that the United Kingdom believes that the Security Council should itself take action to address all those factors. We are not seeking to disrupt the balance between the various agencies, funds and programmes that together make up the infrastructure of the United Nations.

We know that today's discussion makes some people uneasy. Although today's debate wisely refers to "challenges", all too often our debate revolves around the word "threat" and its connotations. The word "threat" evokes Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which in itself provides the means for the Security Council to take action through economic sanctions, travel bans and even military intervention. But the use of the word "threat" in the context of today's debate is not in anyone's interests. We could just as well consider issues such as pandemics, transnational organized crime, migration and the adverse effect of climate change as factors that could lead to disputes or that could likely exacerbate friction — the language of Chapter VI and the pacific settlement of disputes.

The point is the same. The Security Council should be apprised of the extent to which those issues represent conflict risks. We should be aware as we scan the horizon that cross-cutting themes may offer insights into the potential for conflict. Many argue that the dramatic events of the Arab Spring this year were not predicted, but a series of United Nations Development Programme human development reports did indeed identify many of the underlying socio-economic factors that led to the uprising. The Council would perhaps have been better prepared to respond to the Arab spring if it had focused on those factors at an earlier stage.

Taking one of the three factors dealt with in today's debate, the United Kingdom believes that insecurity and conflict can be exacerbated by climate change factors such as drought, famine and desertification. It is not hard to see how international agreements on the shared use of natural resources may be disrupted by the adverse effects of climate change. So we believe that it makes sense for those responsible for helping Member States to strike agreements on resource-sharing to have regular access to advice from climate specialists to ensure that they take account of such risks.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) has accessed outside expertise on climate change for precisely that reason. But let us be clear. We are not arguing that the UNRCCA should have a mandate to tackle climate change. We are not suggesting that the UNRCCA should lobby for changes to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are not even suggesting that the UNRCCA should have the mandate to hire a climate specialist. We are merely suggesting that it should have access to that expertise, when necessary, to develop its own work.

We think that it is sensible for the Security Council, charged as it is with the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to have the opportunity to consider cross-cutting pressures on international stability and thematic issues that might contribute to regional fragility or increased sensitivity to conflict or escalation in violence. That is an important tool for effective conflict prevention.

Over the course of the past several years, we have continually emphasized the need for the Council to be able to conduct more effective conflict prevention. We

need, then, to be free from time to time to scan the horizon for potential disputes, frictions or threats on the basis of evidence from experts in thematic issues, such as those briefing the Council today, and not just in response to an eruption in violence.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): Allow me at the outset to express our appreciation to you, Sir, and your delegation for organizing today's meeting.

We also offer our thanks to the Secretary-General; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres; the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Margaret Chan; and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Yury Fedotov. I also note with appreciation the presence of Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Colombia.

The United Nations was established in the aftermath of the chaos created by the two world wars, with the avowed aim of saving "succeeding generations from the scourge of war". In 1945, the international community decided to entrust the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The United Nations Charter itself prescribed the trigger mechanism for collective action by the Security Council. The departure point for such action is contained in Article 39, which states that the Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression". In other words, the fundamental preoccupation of the Security Council was the management of war and peace essentially within the paradigm of inter-State relations.

The United Nations Charter was signed 66 years ago. Like all living documents, the Charter provides circumscribing limits, but encourages Member States to undertake sufficient innovations to deal with emerging situations. The evolution of the United Nations peacekeeping agenda and its transformation over the years in response to the changing international environment are testimony to the Organization's versatility.

Peacekeeping has fleshed out the essence of multilateralism by pooling the resources of the many for the benefit of the whole. The fact that, in time, United Nations peacekeepers found their mandates expanding to include protection agendas in intra-State conflicts only speaks volumes of their utility and resilience. While such roles are critically important, they do not and cannot detract from the fact that the essential function of the Council is to address matters of imminent threat to international peace and security.

Mr. President, your delegation has circulated a concept note in preparation of this meeting (S/2011/698, annex). The note lists several areas of possible threats to the maintenance of international peace and security. One of the areas mentioned is climate change and the possible impacts of migration on peace and security. The United Nations has a Framework Convention with a toolbox of ways and means of addressing climate change, none of which is available to the Security Council. In fact, the real requirement for addressing climate change is rooted in the need for collaboration and not through the imposition of punitive measures. That, in and of itself, makes it imperative that discussions on climate change be carried out where the necessary wherewithal rests. In fact, major negotiations have been under way for several years under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and we should not seek to either duplicate or in any way detract from them. Another area mentioned is that of global pandemics. Those, too, like climate change, demand collaborative approaches and not finger-pointing or punitive action.

The sad reality, however, is that we, as the international community, have shown little appetite for collaboration and sharing. Instead, not only are we unwilling to share the benefits of technological developments, such as drugs at affordable prices, but we have also seen hindrances being placed on developing countries sharing their own know-how and products among themselves.

It is imperative that the Council remain strong in its fight against terrorism. Transnational organized crime and its veritable nexus with drug, human and arms trafficking are well established. Their strong operational linkages with terrorists groups have become symbiotic in nature. Terrorist financing, illicit money-laundering and illegal arms sales remain intertwined in a complex web of toxic relationships. Further, the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists presents a grave security challenge to the international community. Another area in which we need to be extremely careful involves the possibilities that emanate from the misuse of

cyberspace and related technologies by terrorists and their supporters.

In recent months, we have seen concerted attempts to enlarge the scope of work and responsibility of the Security Council. We do not favour this discordant trend, as a matter both of propriety and of pragmatism. The United Nations Charter gives clear responsibility to the Security Council on matters of international peace and security, but makes it amply clear that issues of social and economic significance are to be dealt by the General Assembly. An unequivocal distinction between these two sets of functions has so far helped in the smooth functioning of the United Nations system. Any digression from the Charter rules is likely to create dysfunction. From the functional point of view as well, burdening the Council with an increasing number of global challenges, premised on their perceived interconnectedness with threat to peace and security, is self-defeating. It also distracts the Council from its core mandate and from attending to matters that are its primary responsibility.

More than three-fourths of the agenda of the Security Council — actually more than four-fifths — is dominated by African issues. In Africa, we now see the African Union (AU) evolving into a mature organization whose leadership is willing to take on increased responsibility for managing Africa's affairs. In addition, there are also regional groupings in Africa. The challenge before us is to learn to work in real collaboration with the AU and the regional organizations in Africa in the furtherance of peace and security on the continent. This real collaboration requires us to listen to our colleagues from Africa, to dialogue with them and to be there to assist them, as per their requirement, in resolving conflicts, and not just when it is convenient or fashionable. It also does not mean imposing our world view on them.

In this connection, it is worth noting that piracy off the coast of Somalia is a major new threat to international peace and security. The Council must encourage an enhanced degree of international cooperation to counter this threat and seriously act on the recommendations of the African Union in this regard.

Today, we live in an intensely interconnected world defined by profound changes in science and revolutions in communications, information technologies, warfare techniques and globalization. In our view, the most important challenge to international peace and security and conflict prevention is that our platform for global governance in this area, namely the Security Council, is no longer reflective of contemporary reality. A composition rooted in 1945 detracts from its abilities to fully harness the capabilities of United Nations Member States as of today and leads to its continued application of methods of coercion from an era gone by, rather than looking for newer approaches involving collaborative action.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank you, Foreign Minister Portas, for presiding over today's meeting. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Fedotov; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Guterres; and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Ms. Chan, for their respective briefings.

The world is undergoing deep and complicated development and change. Traditional security issues, such as conflict, wars and territorial disputes, endure, while non-traditional security issues, such as poverty, backwardness, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime and internet security issues, have also come to the fore. The two categories are often interrelated and mutually reinforcing. China therefore appreciates Portugal's initiative in convening today's meeting, which will help the international community to increase its awareness of the new challenges.

Faced with various global security threats and challenges, the international community should strengthen multilateral cooperation and respond through collective action, while adhering to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The United Nations and the Security Council can play their due roles, pursuant to the Charter and the relevant division of labour.

In recent years, the Security Council has adopted several important resolutions on combating terrorism and preventing proliferation, which have made important contributions to promoting international cooperation, to combating terrorism and to strengthening the international system to prevent proliferation. The Security Council has also organized

thematic debates on how such issues as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, development, HIV/AIDS and climate change affect international peace and security.

Some consensus has been reached. Transnational organized crime often intertwines with drug trafficking and terrorism. It aggravates illicit financing and arms trafficking, thereby affecting the security, stability and economic development of countries and regions in conflict. The Security Council should continue to pay attention to the issue of transnational organized crime from the perspective of prevention and conflict resolution.

In conflict and post-conflict situations, the tasks of preventing and treating HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases are particularly arduous. In that respect, the World Health Organization (WHO) has played a very important lead role in recent years. While considering the particular situations on its agenda and devising well-formulated plans for post-conflict reconstruction, security sector reform and the reintegration of former combatants, the Security Council should give due consideration to the need to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, in close cooperation with the WHO.

Climate change is a serious common challenge to all of humankind. The international community should strengthen its cooperation on the basis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol so as to face the challenge together. China has always participated proactively and constructively in the negotiations and international cooperation on climate change, and called for climate change to be addressed in the framework of sustainable development, in accordance with the principles of fairness and common but differentiated responsibilities.

In addressing these new challenges, the various United Nations entities need to carry out their work in accordance with the mandated division of labour, their comparative advantages and the provisions of the United Nations Charter. They should maintain coordination and synergy while avoiding duplication of effort that results in differences of opinion and wasted resources.

Developing countries are constrained by their level of development and are particularly affected by the international economic and financial crisis. As a result, they face various difficulties in responding to challenges and threats. The international community should pay paramount attention to that issue and proactively provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal.

(*spoke in Portuguese; interpretation provided by the delegation*)

I am grateful for the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Ambassador Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and Ms. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization. I also welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Vice-Minister from Brazil and the Deputy Minister from Colombia.

As President, I have the privilege to speak after hearing all the other speakers. Their important remarks highlighted the relevance of the themes that we are discussing today. States and international institutions are traditionally prepared to address the classic threats to peace and security. Such threats were the core reasons for the establishment of our international institutions. The requirements of contemporary societies are ever-increasing and ever more diverse. It is therefore important for States and international institutions to monitor the ongoing evolution of societies and people's lives in order to be in tune with the driving forces of vanguard events and the spirit of our historical moment.

The series of events of the recent past — political, economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental — clearly demonstrates that we are in a new political world and a new economic reality. Many of these changes create instability and threaten international peace and security, but they also point to new responsibilities for new international and regional actors. The international community, the United Nations and the Security Council are therefore confronted with new challenges that they must face, inevitably struggle with and, ideally, prevent.

Today's meeting is an unusual debate for the Security Council. For precisely that reason, it has been

bold and innovative, and its themes connect the United Nations with the demands of contemporary societies. These new challenges have been identified, and it is now up to us to contribute to the definition of an effective collective response. Because of its universality, only the United Nations, through its various institutions and bodies, is in a position to adequately respond.

Over the past year, the Council has broached such issues as security and development, the impact of climate change on security, the consequences of transnational crime in situations of conflict, and the effect of HIV/AIDS on security. The analysis and discussion of those themes deepen and reinforce the relationship between the Council and the other organs of the United Nations and, without a doubt, also strengthen their capacity to prevent conflict. It is therefore essential to continue to develop a more integrated and systematic approach to all of those issues.

Organized crime is today one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. Transnational organized crime also facilitates the illegal exploitation of natural resources, which in itself can often be a catalyst for conflict in many parts of the world. Organized crime, which often violates the arms embargoes imposed by the Council, also has a direct impact on the Council's ability to fulfil its mandate.

All of those types of organized crime have a particularly serious impact on fragile States. In post-conflict situations, criminal violence replaces political violence and hinders efforts to re-establish and build peace and the rule of law. The situation in West Africa, where Portugal has actively participated in the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes, clearly illustrates the implications of organized crime for regional and international security.

We therefore believe that a courageous effort to craft regional and international instruments and strategies in response to transnational crime is critical to preventing conflict. On behalf of my country, I pay tribute to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for playing a crucial role in the formulation of such regional strategies and in providing support to capacity-building for national institutions responsible for fighting crime.

I will now say a few words about the issue of climate change. We are not attempting to define climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, as we all know that those issues are essentially dealt with in other forums. Instead, we must consider the specific aspects of that phenomenon, as it may have an impact on the Security Council's responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have already mentioned, factors related to climate change, such as hunger, drought and desertification, can cause massive population movements and cruelly claim the lives of children and, in turn, adversely affect stability and the future. While such movements are not the direct catalysts of conflict, under some circumstances, they exacerbate existing tensions and prolong conflict.

In that context, we must be particularly attentive to the special situation of the most vulnerable, namely, the small island developing States, whose populations will be forced by rising sea levels to abandon their lands of origin. That is not only a humanitarian challenge, but also a challenge to the international law that underpins the work of the United Nations and this Council. What shall we do with those uprooted populations? How shall we resolve problems caused by changing borders, the creation of exclusive economic zones, the loss of citizenship rights and the inevitable identity crisis? I believe that it is impossible to stand by and silently witness the plight of those populations that risk becoming a State without a territory.

We recognize that information on the impact of those problems on international peace and security is still limited, but the trends that we have already observed justify and, I would say, call for a vigilant attitude on the part of the Security Council.

The devastating impact of the transmission of HIV is most strongly felt in conflict and post-conflict situations. Violence and instability exacerbate the spread of HIV, especially among women and girls. Some of the regions of the world with the highest rates of infection are also conflict or post-conflict regions. It is therefore not surprising that the Council's first-ever debate on a health-related issue within its purview of maintaining peace and security was on HIV and AIDS.

Integrating the fight against pandemics into the peacebuilding strategies of post-conflict countries having recently emerged from conflict is an essential measure to avoid jeopardizing the gains made in the consolidation of peace. In that regard, it is important to

strengthen international support to programmes led by United Nations agencies to fight pandemics, in particular the initiatives coordinated by the World Health Organization. It is equally important for United Nations peacekeeping missions to assist the relevant agencies in implementing such programmes. That is the only way in which the relevant organs of the United Nations will be able to concerted action.

As is so often the case, the most vulnerable to challenges are the least developed and the poorest. In a spirit of solidarity and international unity, we call for an effort to define our collective response. In contemplating those new issues, we must recall the words of a memorable figure of the Christian humanist tradition, who said that if the rich do not deal with the lives of the poor, the poor will eventually deal with the lives of the rich.

Those are not issues that the Security Council can or should deal with alone. The Council can and should, in our opinion, develop a systematic and comprehensive approach to new challenges to international peace and security. Indeed, the topics under discussion here today have been brought to the attention of the Council with increasing frequency, highlighting their relevance. The Council, however, still lacks a clear strategy on the best way to monitor those challenges on a regular basis and to identify their similarities.

We believe that the creation of a mechanism by which the Council could monitor those issues would be a step forward and provide added value. An informal working group of Council members could be set up to review new information, including from the relevant reports of the Secretary-General and of other United Nations organs and agencies. That information could serve as the foundation for better concerted, articulated, informed and effective action of the international community. We will continue working with members of the Security Council to that end, and with a view to reaching a consensus on the steps required to set up such a mechanism.

New challenges to international peace and security can lead to increased instability and insecurity. It is our duty to deepen our knowledge of those phenomena so as to ensure that they will not turn into conflicts. As the main body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, this Council must shoulder its responsibilities and lead that process.

I now resume my function as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Fedotov.

Mr. Fedotov: In the United Nations, if one has the floor, one uses it, so I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you, Mr. President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, for having taken the initiative to convene today's meeting of the Security Council.

For me, it was very important to listen to the Council's members, whose views and opinions are quite important and relevant to the practical action of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Indeed, we do have our own governing bodies, but administratively we are part of the Secretariat and it is only natural for us to brief the Security Council as often as it so wishes. And the more we have a dialogue with the Security Council and with all the entities and Member States, the more chance we have of succeeding in our efforts to curb drug trafficking and organized crime, which are major destabilizing factors in the twenty-first century. I would like once again to thank the members of the Security Council for their support of UNODC, and, since we have in this Chamber some outstanding contributors to the UNODC budget, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and express our appreciation for their support.

The President: I thank Mr. Fedotov for his comments, and I give the floor to Mr. Guterres.

Mr. Guterres: Very briefly, I would like to thank you again, Mr. President, for this opportunity, and to say that when doing humanitarian work, we are on the receiving end of the problems we've been talking about here. We deal with their impact and with the most vulnerable. Obviously for us, not having the ability to interfere with the political dimensions, which are always part of the origin of humanitarian problems, it is very important that the international community as a whole be able to address the gaps — in governance, in political will and in operating — that lead to situations such as those we have been discussing today, and to find the best instruments and strategies for addressing them.

The President: I thank Mr. Guterres for his comments, and I give the floor to Ms. Chan.

Ms. Chan: Thank you very much for the invitation to brief the Security Council. This is the first opportunity for the World Health Organization (WHO) to do so. We are very pleased to have had this opportunity, and especially to have been able to listen to the views of the members of the Security Council and their advice.

I would like to make one point. I fully agree with the comments of many of the Council members on the importance of United Nations agencies' working together, based on their areas of core competency, to support countries and the international community in mounting a highly effective and integrated approach, as the President said, to any threat to world peace and security. The World Health Organization is not a major player in peace and security and does not deal with those issues directly, but if there is anything we can do to support the work of the Council, we would be happy to contribute. I thank you once again for this opportunity.

The President: I thank Ms. Chan for her comments.

There are no more names inscribed on my list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6669

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6669th meeting

Monday, 28 November 2011, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Mashabane
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2011/727)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-60794 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2011/727)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ian Martin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/727, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ian Martin.

Mr. Martin: It is just three months since Tripoli fell to forces committed to ousting the Al-Qadhafi regime and just one month since the end of serious fighting. Last week, the National Transitional Council (NTC) approved the interim Government formed by the Prime Minister it had elected, Mr. Abdurrahim El-Keib. On the day the ministers were sworn in, last Thursday, I was able to discuss with the Prime Minister, along with one of his two Deputy Prime Ministers and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the priorities for his Government and for the support of the United Nations, and to have more specific discussions on matters crucial to public security in meetings with the new Ministers of the Interior and Defence.

More than one of my Libyan interlocutors has asked, somewhat rhetorically, how the state of affairs in Libya today compares with the condition of other post-conflict countries so soon after the end of fighting and change of regime. But if the answer to that question is a positive one, it is because Libyans have not been complacent but have shown great initiative and responsibility, especially at the level of their cities, towns and localities. They know that they now face great challenges, requiring effective central and local governance.

The interim Government that is to tackle these challenges until after the election of a National Congress in seven months time comprises two Deputy Prime Ministers and 24 Ministers, selected by Prime Minister El-Keib after extensive consultations. He emphasized his intention to select candidates based on professionalism and relevant experience, and at the same time he appears to have given careful consideration to ensuring representation of the various regions. Only two of the Ministers are women, appointed to the portfolios of Health and Social Affairs.

There is overwhelming agreement that the first and foremost of immediate challenges is in the area of security, and it is a multifaceted challenge. Beyond the needs of the war-wounded and bereaved — to be addressed not only by the new Minister of Health but also by an expanded Ministry of Social Welfare, Families of Martyrs and Missing Persons — determining the future of the revolutionary fighters is fundamental to security in the short and longer terms. The new Minister of Defence has the task of shaping a new army and integrating regular military who fought for the revolution and new brigades formed largely of civilians, and while doing so to manage tensions among them.

The latter challenge is even more immediately one for the new Minister of the Interior. The brigades remain the current providers of public security, notwithstanding the growing deployment of police, but at the same time undisciplined elements within them can threaten public security. There have been further recent security incidents in and around Tripoli. The Minister told us of his plans to bring brigades under the control of his Ministry and to absorb substantial numbers into Ministry of the Interior forces, including the police, and he envisages requesting United Nations support in training and the coordination of international assistance.

We are also prepared to assist the Commission on Warriors' Affairs, which is mandated to have overall responsibility for the future of the revolutionary fighters and for identifying educational and employment opportunities for those not to be integrated into the security forces. It is by finding

futures for the fighters that the weapons that have been in their hands can be brought under control.

The other major aspect of the security situation is the one that so deeply concerns Libya's neighbours and concerned the Council when it adopted resolution 2017 (2011) — the presence and proliferation of conventional and non-conventional weapons and related materiel. Of particular concern is the large number of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and ammunition still unaccounted for, which pose both a disarmament problem for Libya internally and a proliferation risk regionally. While that is a legacy of the Al-Qadhafi regime, the new Government fully recognizes its responsibilities in this respect, and the Prime Minister again expressed to me Libya's willingness to cooperate with international assistance, within a framework of national sovereignty and decision-making.

Over the past few weeks, bilateral partners have been supporting the Ministry of Defence in identifying, securing, storing and, where appropriate, disabling those weapons. It is difficult, however, to make accurate assumptions about the number of MANPADS that are circulating in Libya or may have crossed borders into neighbouring countries. There were no official records kept of the weapons before the revolution, and the Al-Qadhafi forces moved many of them around in the last days of the conflict, including to unofficial storages and caches in residential areas. Initial efforts suggest that a substantial number of these weapons were destroyed during the NATO campaign or have been taken in possession by revolutionary brigades and militias. Reclaiming the latter weapons and transferring them into safe storage sites will need to be part of the larger effort of their integration into the future security forces of the State and specific demobilization and weapons abatement programmes.

A full and reliable picture of all MANPADS storage sites or current holders of these weapons does not exist to date. Despite individual media reports about such weapons having been sighted in neighbouring countries or claims by groups in neighbouring countries that they have gained access to these weapons, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has not yet received verifiable information of such occurrences.

Meanwhile, UNSMIL has been briefed on Libya's related efforts to establish an effective border security and management system. We have shared our information with the members of the Panel of Experts who visited Tripoli recently, and intend to work closely with all concerned to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of resolution 2017 (2011). For UNSMIL to continue to facilitate and coordinate international support to the efforts of the Government in this area as effectively as possible and to assist in coordination with neighbouring countries, we will be building a dedicated capacity within the Mission.

As far as chemical weapons and nuclear materials are concerned, the picture is far clearer and more encouraging. The report of the Secretary-General records the satisfactory outcome of the first post-conflict visit of the inspectors of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The OPCW is planning a further visit in December, including to two sites in Sabha and Sokna, now formally declared to them by the new Libyan authorities, where additional materials have been found and the sites secured. The International Atomic Energy Agency is planning its first visit of safeguards inspectors to Libya, also in December. UNSMIL provides security and logistics support to these efforts, as requested.

The Government will need a little time to work out the different responsibilities of its ministries and other bodies in addressing all these tasks across the security sector — integration and demobilization, training and development of police and a new army, weapons control and border management — but there is no doubt about its sense of urgency. Nor is there any doubt about its desire for United Nations support and coordination of international actors. The Prime Minister has asked us for a detailing of potential United Nations assistance in these areas, and we shall be providing this and discussing it with him and relevant ministers.

The security situation and the way in which it develops in the near future cannot be separated from Libya's urgent need for liquid funds. This has been emphasized and re-emphasized to me by every interlocutor, from the Chairman of the National Transitional Council and the Prime Minister down, and is echoed in the popular claim that Libya has the right to resume the control of its assets. It needs to be clear that assets are not being withheld for any longer than is required by the rationale of resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), and that asset-holding countries are

making every effort — as must Libyan authorities themselves — to overcome as quickly as possible the technical requirements for funds to flow. I hope that the Council, the main asset-holding countries and the Libyan authorities can speedily agree on a coordinated approach to these issues. The stabilization of the country, the success of the Government and the perception of the international community are all at stake.

The contrast between the knowledge that Libya has great national wealth and the inability of citizens even to draw fully from their own bank accounts is an inflammatory one, coming at a time when a new Government needs not only to deliver but also to manage expectations. Related effects are also felt regarding United Nations support. While the Joint Mine Action Coordination Team (JMACT), in which the United Nations Mine Action Service works with international non-governmental organizations, continues to clear areas and to promote risk education for the affected population, there remains an urgent need to expand such activities. JMACT is ready and able to undertake this expansion, but substantial additional donor resources are urgently required pending the receipt of Libyan Government support. The assumption that funding by international donors is not required, in this and other areas, because of Libya's wealth will become true only when the Government actually has sufficient funds to meet the country's most urgent priorities.

In his report as well as during his visit, the Secretary-General has continued to emphasize the importance of national reconciliation and the need to address the legacy of human rights violations, as well as current human rights issues. The National Transitional Council is planning a major national meeting on reconciliation in December, to be addressed among others by Libya's foremost religious leader, Sheikh Sadiq Al-Gheriani, with whom I had the privilege to discuss these issues recently. The Prime Minister told me of his intention to ensure that his Government builds on local efforts already taking place and the work of the NTC itself. The challenge of transitional justice is highlighted by the strong desire in Libya that Saif al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and other prominent figures of the Al-Qadhafi regime, if others are captured or extradited to Libya, be put on trial in the country.

Meanwhile, UNSMIL is working closely with the National Commission for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons in operationalizing its mandate and encouraging the international community to provide it with technical and other support. I had an immediate opportunity to urge the Ministers of the Interior and Defence to give high priority to addressing swiftly the concerns regarding detention set out in the report of the Secretary-General. Today in Tripoli, my colleagues have done the same, and offered the assistance of the United Nations, in UNSMIL's first meeting with the new Minister of Justice. It is indicative of the difference from the attitudes of the past regime that there is no denial that human rights are being violated, and in most cases international organizations are granted access to detainees. The new Minister of the Interior told me he welcomed public criticism as strengthening his hand in tackling the issues.

But my meetings in Tripoli with many of the diplomatic representatives of African countries with nationals in detention have further illustrated for me and my colleagues the seriousness of the issue, and the new Government must show that it is a priority for effective action. The authorities have expressed their intention to work with partners on establishing a legal framework for managing migration, and this too is a matter of urgency. The protection of internally displaced persons, minorities and migrant workers from sub-Saharan Africa was a focus of the visit my Deputy has just made with national counterparts to the south of Libya.

I can report some further progress beyond that reflected in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the path to election preparations. On 20 November, the NTC formally appointed an eight-member committee to study requirements for the election process, work with international organizations and prepare the appointment of a chairperson and members of an electoral commission and its budget.

The committee's chairman and other members are persons with whom the UNSMIL electoral team had already been working. We have continued to stress that if credible elections for a national congress are to be held by June 2012, early decisions have to be made on the electoral system, including the number and size of electoral constituencies and the electoral formula, as well as possible special measures for women and other groups; on the eligibility of candidates and voters; and on the authority, composition and appointment of the

electoral commission. The time period for legislation to be adopted is brief, yet a process of consultation is essential as Libyan civil society and emerging political groups begin to debate election issues.

Women are asserting themselves as active participants in this vibrant civil society. I and several of my colleagues took part earlier this month in a five-day national conference organized by two women's organizations, based respectively in Tripoli and Benghazi, to promote awareness and strategize regarding issues affecting women in Libyan society. The event was the first of its kind in the aftermath of the revolution, and reflected the courage, determination and adaptability of Libyan women in the face of changing circumstances.

The coming into office of the new Government is also the moment to review the arrangements for coordination regarding assessment of needs for international assistance, agreed in principle with NTC representatives, and to launch those assessments it regards as priorities under the leadership of the counterparts it designates. I am glad to have had the recent opportunity to visit the United Arab Emirates and Qatar to discuss cooperation in support of Libya, and look forward to the international community in Tripoli being joined by the special representatives of the League of Arab States and of the African Union, which those organizations have stated their intention to appoint. Cooperation with the African Union will be especially important regarding issues affecting Libya's neighbours and the wider region, and UNSMIL will be represented in the inter-agency mission, led by the Department of Political Affairs, that will visit Sahel countries in December to assess country-specific and regional needs and recommend a system-wide strategy for United Nations response.

The report of the Secretary-General concludes with the recommendation of a three-month extension of the mandate of UNSMIL. I think it is evident to members of the Council why it has not been appropriate to make recommendations for a 12-month period before the Government was in place. To have attempted to do so would have been to violate the principle of national ownership, which the Council has repeatedly agreed must guide us.

The Secretary-General's 19 August 2011 report on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict stated that

> "Early planning must include a strong field perspective, with United Nations staff already in country working with national stakeholders to assess national priorities and existing national capacity, including in the diaspora. This will help to ensure that planning is driven by national priorities and needs and not by the availability of international staff or other resources" (*S/2011/527, para. 17*).

That is indeed the approach to which we are committed, in a post-conflict context very different from any other. Time will still be short to engage with Libyan stakeholders to present recommendations that reflect their views for Council consideration in March, and flexibility will still be required beyond that. We have set some precedents in our early planning for post-conflict Libya and our speed of response. I trust that we will continue to have the support of the Council as we build on those.

The President: I thank Mr. Martin for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.